

PMC-EF2a

(20402)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER  
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: California Energy Commission

STATE: CA

**PROJECT TITLE :** SEP-ARRA Green Jobs Training Program - College of the Desert

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0000052	DE-EE0000221	GFO-10-622	EE221

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

**CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:**

## Description:

**B5.1** Actions to conserve energy, demonstrate potential energy conservation, and promote energy-efficiency that do not increase the indoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, designers), organizations (such as utilities), and state and local governments. Covered actions include, but are not limited to: programmed lowering of thermostat settings, placement of timers on hot water heaters, installation of solar hot water systems, installation of efficient lighting, improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings, development of energy-efficient manufacturing or industrial practices, and small-scale conservation and renewable energy research and development and pilot projects. The actions could involve building renovations or new structures in commercial, residential, agricultural, or industrial sectors. These actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation.

## Rational for determination:

The College of the Desert is proposing to use \$493,393 in SEP funding to install footers and pylons for a 230' section (eight 8-meter frames) of solar parabolic trough.

The site for the proposed project is located in an industrial zone, but no other buildings exist within a 1-mile radius of the facility. The owner of the property is currently in the process of getting permits to grade 12 acres around the college. A required water drainage plan is under review by the State. This is being done regardless of whether the proposed project moves forward and will be completed before the proposed project moves forward. Therefore, all aspects of the proposed project will occur on previously disturbed land.

Each pylon will be anchored to a concrete footer. There will be nine to ten cement footers spaced evenly within the 230' strip of land. It is anticipated that a spread-footer design will be used with most of the footer volume sitting above ground (footers will not penetrate the ground surface more than two feet). The pylons and footers will be engineered according to local wind loading factors. Ground disturbance is less than one acre. There are not expected to be any adverse effects to threatened and endangered species, wetlands, or floodplains as a result of the proposed project.

An archeological inspection will occur prior to grading of the property on which the trough will be installed according to City requirements. No impact on cultural resources was identified during the permitting and development of the building. This project has been reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) according to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and has been found that no historic properties will be affected pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4 (d) (1). Local review has been conducted according to California Code Section 53904 provisions for public schools.

The collector will stand approximately 12' above ground once installed. The footprint of the installed system is approximately 230' x 16'. The training facility is located next to Interstate 10, but view of the trough will be blocked by the building, except from a long distance and wide angle in the east bound lane. There will be no adverse effects to visual resources as a result of the proposed project.

This project is consistent with activities outlined in B5.1; therefore, it is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA PROVISION**

Note to Specialist :

This EF-2A was completed by Logan Sholar on 9-20-10

**SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.**

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/20/10

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

Field Office Manager review required

**NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

**BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :**

Field Office Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_