

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
NEPA DETERMINATION**

**RECIPIENT:** California Energy Commission**STATE:** CA**PROJECT TITLE:** GSFA SGIP-ERB BRIDGE FINANCING PROGRAM

|  |                                      |                            |                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Funding Opportunity Announcement Number</b> | <b>Procurement Instrument Number</b> | <b>NEPA Control Number</b> | <b>CID Number</b> |
|  | EE0008283                            | GFO-0008283-001            |                   |

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

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

Description:

**A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

**A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.

**B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water** (a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the California Energy Commission through the Self-Generation Incentive Program to fund the installation of energy storage solutions in the form of home batteries. The program provides incentives to rural and low-income customers in specific service territories to purchase and install energy storage systems to increase energy resiliency and mitigate impacts from public safety power shutoffs. Although the current proposal is for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), the program could change into a Loan Loss Reserve program, if determined by the State to be more effective. Such a change would require approval by the DOE Project Officer.

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) is the 3rd party administrator for the RLF. GSFA would provide funding to

contractors on behalf of homeowners for the installation of residential battery energy storage. Funding would cover most, if not all, of the cost of installation of an energy storage system. Work would include the installation of a home battery storage system and associated electrical connections required for the installation including wire upgrades and panel upgrades. Once the loan is secured, the battery specifications would be determined and permits would be obtained.

Projects would be limited to:

- Battery energy storage systems designed for residential properties (per California Public Utilities Commission guidelines).
- Residential properties only, single-family homes.
- Appropriately sized systems for properties, not to exceed 27kWh.
- Systems installed inside a structure (usually a garage) or outside attached to a structure.
- Minor electrical modifications required for installation of the battery storage systems.

No structural modifications or ground disturbance would be required.

Additional eligibility could include such criteria as properties in areas of high risk of power line fires, customers who depend on electrical power for medical needs or who rely on electric water pumps for water supply, and customers falling below low-income thresholds.

Installation contractors would be hired by the homeowner and approved by the Investor Owned Utility Program Administrator. All work would follow state and local regulations.

After evaluation of the potential impacts, DOE has determined that the proposed activities would not have short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain, if activities were to occur within a floodplain. Additionally, DOE has determined that the project activities are not subject to the preparation and distribution of a notice of floodplain action as required under Subpart B of 10 CFR 1022 "Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements", as the proposed activities are minor modifications or additions to existing facilities to improve environmental conditions and the requirement is not applicable (10 CFR 1022.5(d)(3)).

The recipient will adhere to the restrictions of their DOE Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement.

DOE also conducted a review of potential issues relating to other resources of concern and found that no effects would be expected to result from activities anticipated to be selected that fit within the activities described above.

## NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program – State Energy Program  
This NEPA determination does not require a tailored NEPA Provision.  
NEPA review completed by Shaina Aguilar on 9/8/20.

## FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATIONS

The proposed action (or the part of the proposal defined in the Rationale above) fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D. To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

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

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



**Electronically Signed By: Casey Strickland**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/10/2020

**FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION**

- Field Office Manager review not required
- Field Office Manager review required

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

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

Field Office Manager

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