

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

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

**RECIPIENT:** Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians**STATE:** CA**PROJECT TITLE:** Renewable Energy on Bi'du Khaale Housing and Community Center

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002317	DE-IE0000142	GFO-0000142-001	

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.

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians (DCR) for the installation of grid-tied, roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on 25 homes and a community building with a total installed capacity of approximately 150 kW-DC. Additionally, four to six tribal members would be trained to install and maintain the solar systems. DCR would partner with GRID Alternatives to install the PV systems and provide workforce training. The homes and community building where project activities would occur are being built as part of a separate DCR construction project in Cloverdale, CA that is occurring regardless of the DOE project. The construction of the homes and community building would have independent utility and therefore would not be considered a connected action to the DOE project. Potential impacts to resources of concern associated with the construction will not be analyzed within this NEPA review.

Proposed project activities would include contract development and signature, trainee recruitment and tenant engagement, design completion, permitting, installation with hands-on training, commissioning and interconnection, and monitoring. Project activities would pose potential general construction or electrical related health and safety hazards to project workers during installation. Hazards associated with the performance of project work would be mitigated through use of proper personal protective equipment, training, and compliance with all applicable Federal and State occupational health and safety laws. All required permits would be in place prior to proceeding with the project work.

Solar installations would occur on the roofs of newly constructed residences and the newly constructed community building approximately 4200 feet west of Runway 14/32 at the Cloverdale Municipal Airport. To ensure that the proposed project would not result in an impact on aviation safety as a result of the potential for glare and ocular impacts, a glare and ocular impact analysis was completed in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines and policy. While each individual solar installation would not be expected to have the potential for glare hazards to incoming aircraft, the cumulative effect of all 150 kW of solar systems were considered by assuming the entire area of the construction project would be one large PV array and the PV modules being installed would be lightly textured with an anti-reflective coating. To demonstrate that a proposed solar project would not result in an impact to aviation safety, the FAA stipulates there should be no potential for glare or "low potential for after-image" along the final approach path for any existing or future landing thresholds (including any planned interim phases). The

final approach path is defined as 2 miles from 50 feet above the landing threshold using a standard 3° glide path. At Cloverdale Municipal Airport the final approach paths for incoming aircraft are for Runways 14 and 32 (Cloverdale Municipal Airport does not have an Air Traffic Control Tower). The conclusion of the analysis was that the PV installations would not cause glare to incoming aircraft on final approach at an intensity above a "low potential for after-image", even assuming a much larger PV array area than expected for the total area of the individual residential systems when combined. This level of glare meets the FAA standard for no objection to construction of the project if it were occurring on-airport. Based on this analysis, DOE does not anticipate any adverse impacts to incoming aircraft along the final approach paths as a result of project activities.

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 the proposed project activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
This NEPA Determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

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: _____



Casey Strickland

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 8/20/2021

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: _____