

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



**RECIPIENT:** Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

**STATE:** CA

**PROJECT TITLE :** Coyote Valley Community Solar Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002774	DE-IE0000178	GFO-0000178-001	GO178

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.)

**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 Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians to install roof-top solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and parking canopy solar PV systems at the Coyote Valley Casino and Resort Hotel and Convenience Store in Redwood Valley, California.

Award activities would include design, engineering, fabrication, and installation of steel carports with solar PV panels, installation of roof-top solar PV panels and supporting racks, wiring, testing, and commissioning the arrays. Roof-top solar installations would occur on the Coyote Valley Casino and Resort Hotel, adjacent Coyote Valley Convenience Store, and adjacent support structures. The carports would be installed in existing parking lots around the casino resort and convenience store buildings and would require minor ground disturbance (approximately 115 column foundations). All award activities would occur on tribal lands.

Based on FEMA National Flood Hazard Map data accessed on 8/31/2023, a portion of the proposed project would be located within flood hazard areas. The proposed rooftop and parking canopy solar PV panels would be elevated above flood levels. Further, no changes to the landscape itself are planned so project activities in the flood hazard areas would not have the potential to impact the floodplain itself. Therefore, DOE has determined that providing funding in support of this project is not a floodplain action requiring a floodplain assessment under 10 CFR 1022.

Minimal air emissions may result from the use of diesel-powered vehicles and equipment during construction of the system. However, significant air impacts are not anticipated as emissions would be temporary and intermittent. Project activities would involve hazards associated with construction activities and working with electricity. Any risks working with hazards would be mitigated through established Tribal safety and construction protocols. The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians would observe all applicable health, safety, and environmental regulations. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to the proposed activities of the project.

**NEPA PROVISION**

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

**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: 9/6/2023

**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: \_\_\_\_\_