

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



RECIPIENT: City of Simi Valley

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE: City of Simi Valley EECBG ARRA Repurposing Project-Residential Energy Efficiency Loan/Grant Program

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Opportunity Announcement Number | Procurement Instrument Number | NEPA Control Number | CID Number |
| DE-FOA-0000013 | DE-SC0001754 | GFO-SC0001754-002 | |

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.)

B5.24 Drop-in hydroelectric systems The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available smallscale, drop-in, run-of-the-river hydroelectric systems that would (1) involve no water storage or water diversion from the stream or river channel where the system is installed and (2) not have the potential to cause significant impacts on water quality, temperature, flow, or volume. Covered systems would be located up-gradient of an existing anadromous fish barrier that is not planned for removal and where fish passage retrofit is not planned and where there would not be the potential for significant impacts to threatened or endangered species or other species of concern (as identified in B(4)(ii) of this appendix). Covered actions would involve no major construction or modification of stream or river channels, and the hydroelectric systems would be placed and secured in the channel without the use of heavy equipment. 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 repurpose the remaining amount of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds (approximately \$157,873.18) awarded to the City of Simi Valley, California (Recipient) from a revolving loan fund (RLF) to purchase electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for their community. This would reduce the City's ARRA fund balance to zero (\$0.00).

DOE previously completed a NEPA Determination (ND) for activities reviewed under ARRA-funded award DE-SC0001754-002. The NEPA justification below covers the proposed projects to be implemented under the repurposed dollars. This ND supersedes the previous ND for any activities proposed to be implemented under the repurposed dollars.

Award activities would involve the planning and installation of five EV charging stations within an existing public parking lot in Simi Valley, California. The EV charging stations would be dual port, free-standing pedestals capable of outputting 30 Amps at 240 Volts, for a total maximum charging rate of 7.2 kilowatts. Underground boring and trenching would be required to a depth of 30 inches below the existing grade to run conduit from the EV stations to an existing Southern California Edison transformer. All ground disturbance would be within the existing parking lot and no trees or vegetation would be trimmed or removed.

The City of Simi Valley would adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of California, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>. Further, DOE determined that the proposed EV charging stations meet the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) exemption ruling regarding EV supply equipment (EVSE). This determination was made because the project meets the conditions put forth in the ACHP EVSE exemption which are likely to result in minimal or no effects to historic properties. Specifically, the project would utilize existing electric infrastructure and a parking lot for installation activities as well as require minimal ground disturbance in areas of previous disturbance.

Hazards associated with the activities include working with electricity and electrical equipment. Existing government and corporate health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed, including personnel

training, proper personal protective equipment, monitoring, and internal assessments. The City of Simi Valley would observe all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental regulations and requirements. DOE does not anticipate any impacts to resources of concern due to proposed project activities.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

1. The City of Simi Valley must adhere to the terms and restrictions of the DOE-executed Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement with the State of California, available at <https://www.energy.gov/node/812599>.

2. The City of Simi Valley is responsible for reviewing the online NEPA and Historic Preservation training at www.energy.gov/node/4816816 and contacting EECBG.NEPA@ee.doe.gov with any EECBG NEPA or historic preservation questions.

3. The City of Simi Valley is required to submit an annual Historic Preservation Report in the Performance and Accountability for Grants in Energy system (PAGE) located at <https://www.page.energy.gov/default.aspx>.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs - EECBG
NEPA review completed by Emily Cohen, 09/20/2024

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: **Matthew Blevins**

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: 9/23/2024

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: _____