

**Notice of Exemption****Form D**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** Sunshine Agriculture, Inc.

**Project Title:** Freedom Ranch Grid-tied Solar

**Project Location – Specific:** 15198 Scofield Ave (APN 487-070-03)

**Project Location – City:** Wasco

**Project Location – County:** Kern

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

This project will install a solar photovoltaic energy system to serve an existing on-site agricultural booster pump and a new electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The ground-mounted solar arrays will be located on 0.44-acre on the north side of the reservoir located on the east side of APN 487-070-03. The EV charging station will be installed at the employee parking area on the north side of the reservoir for on-site use. The project will also include minor grading, trenching, and installation and compaction of conduit runs from the solar arrays to the main service disconnect and EV charging station. After installation, the area beneath the arrays will be covered with crushed rock for vegetation control. The project will be constructed to avoid impacts to harvesting and farming activities.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Sunshine Agriculture, Inc.

**Exempt Status: (check one)**

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number  
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §§ 15301, 15304, and 15311
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301: The project involves minor alteration and operation of existing facilities. Solar arrays will be installed to power an existing on-site agricultural irrigation pump and new EV charging station. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304: The project to install solar arrays involves minor grading, trenching, and backfilling to provide an alternate source of power for the existing on-site irrigation pump and new EV charging station. These activities will not have a significant effect on the environment.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15311: The project will install new solar arrays and an EV charging station accessory to the existing, on-going agricultural operation. These installations will not expand the existing agricultural use and will not have significant effect on the environment.

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.


Each exemption is an independent basis for finding the project exempt.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Geoffrey Dodson **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-654-5171

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

**Signature:**  **Date:** 6/17/2019 **Title:** EC Specialist II

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

**Date received for filing at OPR:** JUN 17 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE