

**CITY OF FRESNO
ADDENDUM TO THE FINDING OF CONFORMITY PREPARED FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. EA-16-011**

(As filed with the Fresno County Clerk on July 1, 2016)

*Addendum prepared in accordance with Section 15164 of the California
Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*

The full Environmental Assessment SCH
No. 2012111015 is on file in the
Development and Resource Management
Department,
Fresno City Hall, 3rd Floor
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, California 93721
(559) 621-8277

PROJECT TITLE:

City of Fresno Police Substation
and a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Facility Site Solar Facility

This addendum was
not circulated for
public review
pursuant to Section
15162(c) of the
CEQA Guidelines.

APPLICANT:
City of Fresno Police Department &
Forefront Power

PROJECT LOCATION:

5735 East Tulare Street; Located on the southwest corner
of East Tulare Street and South Argyle Avenue in the
County of Fresno, California
APNs: 313-021-02T and 03T
Site Latitude: 36°44'29.3676" N & Site
Longitude: 119°41'39.6486"W
Mount Diablo Base & Meridian, Township 14S, Range
21E, Section 4 & 9

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project would install multiple solar photovoltaic (PV) canopies, and associated electrical components (solar energy system) over proposed parking lots, paved and landscaped areas at the proposed Police Substation to supplement the Substation's energy needs, and to generate savings in energy costs. Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 analyzed the potential environmental effects of the Police Substation where the solar energy system is planned. Plans for the Police Substation included solar canopies over parking spaces similar to the proposed solar energy system.

The proposed project will not have a significant impact. It may be determined that: (1) The project does not significantly exceed the scope of Environmental Assessment No. 16-011; (2) No substantial changes are proposed in the project which require major revisions to the previous environmental finding due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (3) No substantial changes will occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; and, (4) No new information, which was not known and could not have been known, at the time the environmental finding for Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 was adopted, has become available.

Therefore, the City of Fresno has determined that an addendum to Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 is appropriate given that none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines

calling for preparation of a subsequent finding of conformity have occurred; and, new information added is only for the purposes of providing minor changes or additions, in accordance with Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA Section 15162 provides that when a negative declaration has been adopted for a project, no subsequent negative declaration shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15162 OF THE CEQA GUIDELINES.

(1) *Substantial changes are proposed in the project which would require major revisions of the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*

**Finding
(1):**

The construction and installation of the solar energy system would provide electricity to the station. The canopies, solar arrays, inverters, AC combiner, utility line and trenching, and security fencing, are minor structures appurtenant to the proposed building. The solar energy system was planned for and analyzed as part of Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 in the same parking lot as the proposed project in parking spaces to the south of the proposed solar energy system. The proposed solar energy system location would not change the findings of Environmental Assessment No. 16-011.

Therefore, for the above-stated reasons, this project does not constitute a substantial change that requires major revisions due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant effect in the approved Environmental Assessment No. 16-011. The preparation of a subsequent or supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is not required for the proposed solar power project pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164.

(2) *Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or,*

**Finding
(2):**

As discussed above for Finding (1), the solar power project proposes minor changes to the previously approved CEQA analyses for the site, which include locating the proposed solar energy system to the north of the location where the approved project showed the planned solar canopies.


The construction of a solar energy system, and associated infrastructure does not result in a change with respect to the circumstances of the approved Environmental Assessment. Solar power generation has already been analyzed as a component of the Police Substation. Moreover, the proposed solar facility project would result in beneficial environmental effects as it would produce emissions-free renewable energy toward the operation of the Police Substation, including the potential for excess electricity to be delivered into the PG&E system; reduce criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional power generation; and advance the City's progress towards its state mandates for renewable energy.

Therefore, for the above-stated reasons, this project does not result in a substantial change to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant effects. The preparation of a subsequent or supplemental MND is not required for the proposed solar power project pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164.

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following: (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous Negative Declaration; (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous Negative Declaration; (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project; and, (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration, would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment.

**Finding
(3):**

There is no new information of substantial importance that shows the proposed project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in Environmental Assessment No. 16-011. Effects previously examined in Environmental Assessment No. 16-011 will not be substantially more severe from implementation of this project. There is no new information that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, nor is there new information that mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous CEQA analyses would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment. The preparation of a subsequent or supplemental MND is not required for the proposed solar power project pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164.

ADDENDUM PREPARED BY: Will Tackett, Planning Manager CITY OF FRESNO	SUBMITTED BY:  Will Tackett, Planning Manager CITY OF FRESNO
DATE: October 15, 2020	