

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



RECIPIENT: Porterville Unified School District

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Creating Opportunities, Changing Lives in Porterville Unified School District

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA-0002756	DE-SE0000714	GFO-SE0000714-001	GO714

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.)

B2.1 Workplace enhancements

Modifications within or contiguous to an existing structure, in a previously disturbed or developed area, to enhance workplace habitability (including, but not limited to, installation or improvements to lighting, radiation shielding, or heating/ventilating/air conditioning and its instrumentation, and noise reduction).

B5.1 Actions to conserve energy or water

(a) Actions to conserve energy or water, demonstrate potential energy or water conservation, and promote energy efficiency that would not have the potential to cause significant changes in the indoor or outdoor concentrations of potentially harmful substances. These actions may involve financial and technical assistance to individuals (such as builders, owners, consultants, manufacturers, and designers), organizations (such as utilities), and governments (such as state, local, and tribal). Covered actions include, but are not limited to weatherization (such as insulation and replacing windows and doors); programmed lowering of thermostat settings; placement of timers on hot water heaters; installation or replacement of energy efficient lighting, low-flow plumbing fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, and showerheads), heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and appliances; installation of drip-irrigation systems; improvements in generator efficiency and appliance efficiency ratings; efficiency improvements for vehicles and transportation (such as fleet changeout); power storage (such as flywheels and batteries, generally less than 10 megawatt equivalent); transportation management systems (such as traffic signal control systems, car navigation, speed cameras, and automatic plate number recognition); development of energy-efficient manufacturing, industrial, or building practices; and small-scale energy efficiency and conservation research and development and small-scale pilot projects. Covered actions include building renovations or new structures, provided that they occur in a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions could involve commercial, residential, agricultural, academic, institutional, or industrial sectors. Covered actions do not include rulemakings, standard-settings, or proposed DOE legislation, except for those actions listed in B5.1(b) of this appendix. (b) Covered actions include rulemakings that establish energy conservation standards for consumer products and industrial equipment, provided that the actions would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure (such as construction of new manufacturing plants with considerable associated ground disturbance); (2) involve significant unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (such as rare or limited raw materials); (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase in the disposal of materials posing significant risks to human health and the environment (such as RCRA hazardous wastes); or (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide funding to Porterville Unified School District to install high-efficiency light emitting diode (LED) lighting at six schools and direct digital building automation systems (BASs) at seven schools as well as replace older heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment with high-efficiency, all-electric HVAC systems at three schools. This funding opportunity is part of a DOE initiative to execute high impact energy efficiency and health improvements as well as innovative energy technology packages in K-12 schools across the country. Overall goals include addressing historic inequities in school facilities investments, reducing school energy expenditures, helping schools lead the nation in solving the climate crisis, and creating well-paying union jobs.

DOE previously completed one NEPA Determination (GFO-SE0002756-BP1; A9 and A11; 11/30/2023) that covered

Budget Period (BP) 1 activities for 18 school districts under the Energy Improvements at Public K-12 School Facilities Funding Opportunity Announcement, i.e., DE-FOA-0002756. Porterville Unified School District was included in GFO-SE0002756-BP1 and is now seeking a NEPA review for the remaining award activities, i.e., BP2 and BP3.

Porterville Unified School District proposes energy efficiency upgrades at seven schools all in Porterville, CA: Bellevue Elementary School, J.J. Doyle Elementary School, Los Robles Elementary School, Roche Avenue Elementary School, West Putnam Elementary School, Bartlett Middle School (Bartlett MS), and Granite Hills High School (Granite Hills HS). Bellevue Elementary, J.J. Doyle Elementary, Los Robles Elementary, and West Putnam Elementary would receive BAS installations and high-efficiency LED lighting upgrades. Roche Avenue Elementary and Bartlett MS would receive all three energy efficiency upgrades – LED lighting, BAS, and HVAC. Granite Hills HS proposes only BAS installation and HVAC replacement activities.

The proposed LED lighting upgrades would involve retrofitting 2-foot by 4-foot fixtures installed in drop ceilings with an innovative mechanical and electrical kit which would fit in the existing lighting fixture housing. BAS installations would be integrated into the existing or new HVAC systems providing control of indoor temperature, air quality, humidity, and ventilation. All new HVAC units would be installed within the footprint of the existing HVAC systems. The existing units are located on rooftops (Bartlett MS only has rooftop units), above drop ceilings and wall mounted (Granite Hills HS), and on ground equipment pads (Roche Avenue Elementary has ground units adjacent to the buildings as well as rooftop units). Roche Avenue Elementary proposes to have 22 HVAC units replaced while Bartlett MS and Granite Hills HS would replace 32 and 79 HVAC units, respectively. Award activities would not require facility modifications or ground disturbance.

Award activities would involve typical hazards associated with construction activities, including handling and use of hazardous materials, electrical hazards, operation of potentially hazardous equipment and vehicles, and site-specific environmental hazards. Existing health, safety, and environmental policies and procedures would be followed to mitigate hazards to acceptable levels. Mitigated hazards would pose negligible risks to the public and environment. All activities would comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

DOE has considered the scale, duration, and nature of proposed activities to determine potential impacts on resources, including those of an ecological, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic nature. DOE does not anticipate impacts on these resources which would be considered significant or require DOE to consult with other agencies or stakeholders.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Include the following condition in the financial assistance agreement:

Per Section XIV(c) of the Programmatic Agreement, DOE requires that Porterville Unified School District submit an annual Historic Preservation Report summarizing all award undertakings and reviews occurring from September 1st through August 31st. These reports are due to DOE annually for the life of the award and are to be received no later than September 15th each year.

Notes:

Office of State and Community Energy Programs – Renew America's Schools
This NEPA determination requires legal review of the tailored NEPA provision.
NEPA review completed by Corrin MacLuckie, 06/20/2024.

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 Date: 6/20/2024
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: _____ Date: _____
Field Office Manager