

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



RECIPIENT: Ava Community Energy Authority

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : Fremont Municipal Critical Facility Resilience Solar and Energy Storage

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number

Procurement Instrument Number
DE-EE0010804

NEPA Control Number
GFO-0010804-001

CID Number
GO10804

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:

B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems

(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems:

1. Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or
2. Located within a previously disturbed or developed area.

(b) Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would be consistent with applicable plans for the management of wildlife and habitat, including plans to maintain habitat connectivity, and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

B4.14 Construction and operation of electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage systems

Construction, operation, upgrade, or decommissioning of an electrochemical-battery or flywheel energy storage system within a previously disturbed or developed area or within a small (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2)) area contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would incorporate appropriate safety standards (including the current National Fire Protection Association 855, Standard for the Installation of Energy Storage Systems), design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to administer Congressionally Directed Spending to the Ava Community Energy Authority to install a photovoltaic solar array and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) microgrid ("solar + storage") at the Age Well Center South Fremont ("Age Well Center"; Fremont, CA).

Award activities would include site development, material procurement, and developing and constructing a solar + storage microgrid at the Age Well Center. The solar array would be approximately 25.08 kW and would be installed in three sections on the roof of the Age Well Center; associated racking and wiring would also be installed on the roof of the building. The dimensions of the three rooftop solar sections would be 17 feet 3 inches by 39 feet 7 inches, 30 feet 8 inches by 11 feet 4 inches, and 21 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 11 inches. The BESS would be approximately 81 kWh and would be placed in an existing parking lot adjacent to the Age Well Center; it would take up the size of approximately one parking space. The installed solar + storage would tie-in to an existing electrical closet.

Ground disturbance for this award would be limited to installing the conduit under the existing walkway via boring, which would only span the width of the sidewalk.

Project activities would occur in a previously disturbed area with active use; the Age Well Center was built in 2019 resulting in the area being disturbed during construction, in addition to the area continuing to be maintained.

Individuals working on this project could be exposed to various physical and electrical hazards during construction. Workers would adhere to health and safety policies and procedures.

DOE conducted a review of potential impacts to other resources of concern and identified no effects that would be expected to result from the proposed project activities.

For Categorical Exclusion Determinations:

- The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B and C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025). To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

- 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.

- The proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination.

Notes:

Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO)
Review completed by Alex Colling on 10/16/2025.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:

 Electronically
Signed By: **Nicole Serio**
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: **10/17/2025**

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: