

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

**From:** California Energy Commission  
 715 P Street, MS-48  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** Rocky Mountain Institute (~~Prospect Silicon Valley~~)

**Project Title:** Mass Deployment of Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Disadvantaged Communities (REVISED) (SCH #2018068660)

**Project Location:**

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
639 Road 210	Richgrove 93261	Tulare (new)
1148 D St	Corona 92882	Riverside (new)
949 E Annadale Ave	Fresno 93706	Fresno (new)
1805 E Bayshore Rd Ste 100	East Palo Alto 94303	Santa Clara (new)
901 W 1St St	Santa Ana 92703	Orange (new)

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

The purpose of this project is to develop and demonstrate standardized energy efficiency retrofit packages, specifically geared towards the low-income multifamily housing market, and that can be scaled to drive down costs. This project will include development of a business model to overcome financing challenges. The original project applicant was Prospect Silicon Valley, but the project is now being carried out by the Rocky Mountain Institute.

Under agreement EPC-17-040, the California Energy Commission approved the original grant with to be determined demonstration sites and adopted CEQA findings that this project is exempt from CEQA under Categorical Exemptions CCR tit. 14, section 15301 and section 15306.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Rocky Mountain Institute

**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 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

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

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The activities would include developing standardized “packages” of energy-efficient equipment and energy efficiency-related materials and methods to be installed or used in existing buildings, especially, multifamily, residential buildings. The equipment and materials would include, but may not be limited to, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units; domestic water heaters; insulation; weatherstripping; paint; building energy controls (e.g., heating, cooling, lighting); and evaluation, measurement, and verification equipment (e.g., power meters, flow meters, sensors, and data loggers). The physical work would include installing this equipment and using these materials. The project would not involve adding residential units or substantially enlarging buildings. The project would also include planning, designing, permitting, and financing. The project would gather and evaluate data from the work.

The above activities fall under two categorical exemptions. First, the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, and minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use, falls under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301. Second, the project includes data collection and analysis to be conducted in multifamily residential buildings and in existing offices of the grant recipient team. California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed project's data analysis activities will have no significant effect on the environment and fall within the categorical exemption of section 15306.

The Energy Commission made CEQA findings pertaining to this project, including finding that it was categorically exempt under CCR tit. 14, sections 15301 and 15306 when the Energy Commission originally approved the agreement on May 1, 2018. The currently proposed changes through this amendment involve changing the location of five (5) test sites. These changes will not result in any environmental impacts beyond those already considered by the Commission.

This amended Notice of Exemption provides documentation of the test site changes and the CEC's analysis regarding CEQA.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Felix Villanueva **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0822

**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:** Felix Villanueva **Date:** 4/15/22 **Title:** Utility Engineer

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

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

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_

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