

2019018493

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812

From: California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Kings, Fresno

Project Title: Community Air Grant- Kings County Community Monitoring Project

Project Applicant: Comite Civico del Valle for San Joaquin Valley Latino Environmental Advancement and Policy Project (LEAP)

Project Location – Specific: Various locations in southwestern portion of Fresno County and Kings County

Project Location - City: Several

Project Location – County: Kings, Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Community air grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach and provide educational materials in communities where air-monitoring networks are located. The project will use a community-driven process (through an existing community steering committee) to determine locations for installation of air monitoring devices (approximately 20) to supplement the current Particulate Matter (PM) monitor network. Up to 15 air monitors will monitor for PM as part of the Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) Air network for monitoring PM. Up to five monitors will be installed to monitor methane as part of a methane-monitoring plan to be developed. Community air grant funds will also be used to assemble five (5) methane monitors, which will be comprised of multiple components including the Alphasense methane sensor, temperature and humidity sensors, circuit board and microcontroller, cellular modem, and enclosure. The methane monitors would be set up to report readings to IVAN servers. Monitor stations will be installed in accordance with U.S. EPA and CARB guidance documents on siting (U.S. EPA Siting Methods) and require no modifications, trenching, or conversion of siting locations. Installation may involve installing a five-foot aluminum pole to mount monitor, which is removable and not always necessary depending on the location. The project will include outreach and community engagement to increase awareness, knowledge, and participation in air quality issues and maintaining the community air monitoring equipment working properly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Air Resources Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Valley Leap, Rey Leon

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080 (b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15061(b)(3) Common Sense,
§15301 Existing Facilities,
§15306 Information Collection
§15311 Accessory Structures
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

In accordance with CEQA, the use of the Common Sense Exemption is based on the "general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment." (CEQA Guidelines, §15061(b)(3)). The use of this exemption is appropriate if "it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment." With certainty,

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there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. The project consists of community outreach, community focus groups, air monitoring, and upgrades to IVAN network.

The project also qualifies as a Class 6 exemption under Article 19 of Categorical Exemptions, §15306, because the activities proposed involve collection of information and does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

The project also qualifies as a Class 1 exemption under Article 19 of Categorical Exemptions, §15301 because the activities proposed involve minor alteration of existing structures and as a Class 11 exemption under Article 19, §15311 because the activities consist of construction of minor structures accessory or appurtenant to existing facilities. The monitors are small devices that will be comprised of multiple components including the Alphasense methane sensor, temperature and humidity sensors, circuit board and microcontroller, cellular modem, and enclosure. Installation of monitor stations does not require modifications, trenching, or conversion of siting locations. Installation may involve installing a five-foot aluminum pole to mount monitor, which is removable and not always necessary depending on the location. The proposed installation does not expand existing use of the structures.

The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of categorical exemption as detailed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause an impact to an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern nor does the project have unusual circumstances that could possibly have a significant effect on the environment. The project would not result in impacts to scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, historic resources, or other sensitive natural environments, or have a cumulative effect to the environment. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated to occur.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rachel Pallatin

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 324-3502

If filed by applicant:

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

Signature: 

Date: 1/28/19

Title: SPA

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 28 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE