

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

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

From: California Energy Commission
 1516 Ninth Street, MS-48
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Aker Solutions, Inc.

Project Title: NextWind Real-time Monitoring System

Project Location – Specific: 2103 CityWest Blvd., Suite 800

Project Location – City: Houston, TX 77042 **Project Location – County:** Harris County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a digital foundation or digital twin, of a floating offshore wind installation enabling continuous improvements in production optimization, lower levelized cost of energy and do so with a better understanding of the environmental impact and mitigations of these impacts. The configuration of this holistic digital platform connects and extracts real-time data through the wind offshore operational lifecycle combining and contextualizing static and dynamic data can influence directly the leveled cost of energy via reduced operational and maintenance costs, therefore, reducing the California rate payers direct cost of electricity, and additionally gaining a better understanding of and mitigating the environmental impacts of such systems. This digital representation of a physical asset shall make available data for the overall wind farm integrity management and conditioning monitoring in real time, as well as wildlife interactions to detect and develop strategies to avoid or minimize environmental impact.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Aker Solutions, Inc.

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project involves the development and configuration of a digital platform designed to extract and contextualize data from offshore wind installations to better understand likely energy usage, environmental impacts, etc. of offshore wind projects. A digital representation of an offshore wind installation will be used instead of an existing, physical asset. This project involves no actual physical installation or similar activity and is instead limited to data collection and research conducted digitally.

This project is therefore categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15306 as basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The project is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), i.e. the “common sense exemption”, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Further, none of the exceptions to exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applies to this project.

Responsible Agency

Contact Person: Silvia Palma-Rojas Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-327-1716

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: Silvia Palma-Rojas Date: 3/23/2020 Title: EGSS

Signed by Responsible Agency

Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Jun 11 2020

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE