

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: Zero Net Energy Alliance, Inc.

Project Title: Richmond Advanced Energy Community (AEC) Phase II Project

Project Location:

Address	City	County
406 B Street	Richmond 94801	Contra Costa
390 S 34Th St	Richmond 94804	Contra Costa
527 S 21St St	Richmond 94804	Contra Costa
687 7Th St	Richmond 94801	Contra Costa
361 S 13Th St	Richmond 94804	Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

ZNE Alliance will 1) Implement a Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Community program that optimizes economic and resilience value at the community and grid level, while directing new revenues and societal benefits to low-income residents in Richmond and 2) Implement a grid-integrated Zero Net Carbon Ready (ZNCR) Homes Program which rehabilitates blighted homes to ZNCR status and enables their re-sale as affordable infill properties to low-to-middle income residents using capital provided by Social Impact Bonds. The scale-up of these strategies to other California communities will be supported by development of an AEC Resource Center and the preparation of the AEC Solutions Toolkit.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Zero Net Energy Alliance, 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, § 15301 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

The grant project activities affecting the physical environment will include adding advanced Distributed Energy Resources (DER) technologies to existing and new buildings in Richmond, California. The buildings include single-family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, and public buildings. These DER technologies include energy efficiency retrofits, solar photovoltaic panels, storage batteries, and possibly water efficiency retrofits, along with a state-of-the-art, electronic DER management platform (hardware and software). CEQA exemptions under California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15301 and 15303 apply. Section

15301, "Existing buildings," covers the operation, maintenance, permitting, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures," covers construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures. The additions and retrofits under the grant project fall within these parameters; therefore, the grant project is exempt under sections 15301 and 15303. Also, the Lead Agency under CEQA is the City of Richmond. The City approved the project and found it to be exempt under CEQA (CEQA Notice of Exemption dated 9/11/2018).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rachel Salazar **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-445-5316

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: *Rachel Salazar* **Date:** 6/17/2020 **Title:** ECS

Signed by Responsible Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Jun 17 2020

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE