

**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:** Form Energy, Inc.

**Project Title:** Demonstrating an Aqueous Air-Breathing Energy Storage System for Multi-Day Resiliency

**Project Location – Specific:**

Lab work: Form Energy HQ located in San Francisco  
Pilot-test site: UCI Engineering Laboratory Facility located northwest of the Engineering Service Road/East Peltason Drive intersection

**Project Location – City:** Lab: San Francisco. Pilot: Irvine 92697 **Project Location – County:** Lab: San Francisco Pilot: Orange

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

Under grant Agreement EPC-19-041, the California Energy Commission will provide a grant of \$1,998,215 to Form Energy, Inc. for the advanced development of an aqueous, air-breathing, battery energy storage system. The project will result in the grant recipient's first fielded demonstration and independent measurement and verification of a 10 kW / 1,000 kWh (100-hour) prototype energy storage system operating under relevant customer use conditions.

The project consists of design, manufacturing, installation, and data collection. Activities will include laboratory evaluation to provide data about the optimal use of multi-day battery energy storage; manufacturing at Form Energy's existing laboratory; and a pilot-test at the University of California, Irvine Campus, Grid Evolution Laboratory.

Beneficiaries will include customers who eventually may buy electricity storage devices using this technology; California's electric utilities and their customers (i.e., ratepayers); along with the public at large and the environment. This project should result in ratepayer benefits of lower cost, increased safety, increased reliability and resiliency, and lower greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Form Energy, 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., titl. 14, § 15301; Cal. Code Regs., titl. 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**


The project involves design, further development, manufacturing, and testing of an aqueous, air-breathing, battery energy storage system. The development and manufacturing will take place at an existing laboratory operated by Form Energy. The pilot-testing will be performed at existing laboratories at the University of California, Irvine Campus. (Testing will also take place in New York.) The project consists of the operation of these existing public or private facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Therefore, this project is exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities. In addition, the project involves data collection and research, which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, this project is exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306, Information Collection. The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Irvine Campus (UC Irvine) is the Lead Agency under CEQA for the pilot test site. UC Irvine prepared a Notice of Exemption for its portion of the project on May 19, 2020, on the basis of the same two CEQA exemptions cited above.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Joseph Sit **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1315

**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:**  **Date:** 06/30/2020 **Title:** Utilities Engineer/CAM

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Jul 02 2020**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** STATE CLEARINGHOUSE