

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: Materials Research LLC

Project Title: Pilot Scale Recovery of Lithium from Geothermal Brines

Project Location – Specific: 333 Ravenswood Ave

Project Location – City: Menlo Park 94025 **Project Location – County:** San Mateo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will demonstrate a pilot scale integrated process for the recovery of lithium from geothermal brines. Skid based process equipment will be designed and assembled for demonstration and housed inside a high bay research facility in Menlo Park. Lithium carbonate will be produced from synthetic brine and geothermal brine at a peak flow of 10 LPM. Geothermal brine will be transported to the facility. Compared to traditional methods of Li recovery from brines, the proposed high-capacity selective sorbent and its regeneration process is expected to lower the cost of Li production by enabling online separation with high recovery efficiency, and minimizing processing time.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Materials Research LLC

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt under Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, sec 15301 because it involves skid mounted equipment that will be used to demonstrate the process operation in an existing facility. The skid mounted equipment will be operated in the high bay facility at SRI International which is designated and used for demonstrating chemical processes at a large scale. Operation of this equipment at the facility will involve negligible or no expansion of the existing or former use. SRI International is a R&D facility and such activities are permitted under the local jurisdiction. No additional permits are required for the proposed activities.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Chuck Gentry **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1528

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: Chuck Gentry **Date:** 7/8/2020 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: Jul 09 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE