

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: Salient Energy Inc.

Project Title: California Zinc-ion Energy Storage Development and Validation Project

Project Location:

Address	City	County
8000 Edgewater Dr	Oakland 94621	Alameda
9500 Gilman Dr	La Jolla 92093	San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will develop, field test, and validate Salient Energy's zinc-ion battery prototype for applications on the customer side of the meter. Salient Energy has developed a non-lithium-ion battery for residential applications that is less expensive, safer, and longer lasting than lithium-ion batteries. The proposed Project will advance the technology in California from the pre-commercial stage to the technology demonstration stage. Using the current cell design, Salient Energy will produce a larger format cell design. Salient Energy is partnering with Electric Applications Inc. for third party testing and validation. During third party validation, Salient Energy will design, assemble and integrate the zinc-ion cells into a residential energy storage system at its facility in Oakland, California. The integrated pilot-scale system will then be validated in a relevant environment with UC San Diego's (UCSD) Smart Inverter/DER Test Lab. The UCSD lab will simulate residential load and applications to fully test and validate a complete zinc-ion battery storage system, achieving TRL 6. With the support of funding from the California Energy Commission, Salient Energy will move its testing, validation, and eventual manufacturing to California, which will provide economic benefits, including job growth, for IOU ratepayers, as well as accelerate the deployment of non-lithium-ion energy storage in California and beyond.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Salient 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., tit 14, § 15301 ; 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:

The project involves development, testing, and validation of a zinc-ion battery prototype. The development and assembly will take place at an existing facility for hardware developers in Oakland. The testing and validation will be performed at existing laboratories at the University of California, San Diego Campus. (Design and certification activities may also take place in Canada.) 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.

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: Joseph Sit **Date:** 08/08/2020 **Title:** Utilities Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____