

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: The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Project Title: Westin High Efficiency Gas Heat Pump Project

Project Location – Specific: 404 S Figueroa St

Project Location – City: Los Angeles 90071 **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will deploy, test, and measure the benefits of gas heat pumps in a Los Angeles hotel (1 million square feet), in order to demonstrate a reduction of natural gas consumption of 35%, at a minimum, and to develop replicable approaches for other large commercial buildings. The benefits of this project, as related to the California Investor-Owned Utility natural gas ratepayers, are to increase grid resiliency, reduce financial burden for natural gas services, and improved safety by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

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 activities funded by this agreement are exempt under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301 because they involve minor energy efficiency retrofit alterations to the existing hotel (1 million square feet). The retrofits involve no expansion of existing use, with interior/exterior alterations to improve building performance.

The activities funded by this agreement are exempt under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15301 because the purpose of installing natural gas fired heat pump systems in the hotel is to monitor and analyze the thermal performance and energy consumption. The project is strictly for information gathering purposes and involves basic data collection with no serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Abigail Jacob **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-1314

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: Abigail Jacob **Date:** 8/13/2020 **Title:** Associate Energy Specialist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____