

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 Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the San Diego Campus's Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Project Title: Development of Climate Projections for California and Identification of Priority Projections

Project Location – Specific: 9500 Gilman Dr

Project Location – City: La Jolla 92093 Project Location – County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project involves computer modeling that will lead to the development of next-generation downscaled climate projections, guided by stakeholder engagement, to support electricity sector resilience by informing energy sector planning and research. The data developed will also contribute to California's anticipated Fifth Climate Change Assessment (5th Assessment). The project will provide California IOUs, state agencies, researchers, planners and other stakeholders with one of the world's most comprehensive, high resolution, regionally relevant, stakeholder-informed climate data sets. It will include bias corrected, high resolution meteorology such as temperature, precipitation, wind, humidity, and solar radiation and an ensemble of hydrological information such as snowpack, runoff, soil moisture and streamflow and hourly sea levels. In addition, to elucidate possible future hazards, research will include targeted dynamically downscaled extreme episodes determined from guidance of California's electricity IOUs and other stakeholders. All proposed climate projection work will be intertwined with an engagement process to ensure that the downscaling and modeling is applicable to electrical energy sector planning and resilience and to climate impacts and planning over California as a whole.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the San Diego Campus's Scripps Institution of Oceanography

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, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Reasons why project is exempt:


This project involves computer modeling and engagement with stakeholder to develop climate projections. The work will be completed using existing supercomputers and will not require any new infrastructure. This project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15306 as basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. There will be no serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, this project is exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Martine Schmidt-Poolman **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-3424

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: Jan 27, 2021 **Title:** Commission agreement manager

- Signed by Responsible Agency
- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____