

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: Nextech Batteries, Inc.

Project Title: Bringing Lithium Sulfur Technology to Market

Project Location:

Address	City	County
9500 Gilman Dr	La Jolla 92093	San Diego
9413 Voigt Drive	La Jolla 92093	San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to conduct design and testing of lithium-sulfur battery cells and modules and install a interconnected field-prototype system with a utility-scale microgrid at University of California, San Diego. The majority of the proposed project are laboratory work, modeling, design and engineering, and other activities that do not require permitting by outside agencies or which will take place under existing building permits and use codes at locations already occupied and utilized by project team. Installation, commission, and operation of the prototype system will require permitting and UCSD is a self-permitting entity as the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Notice of Exemption is estimated to be issue two weeks following submission request and supporting documentation, such as final construction plans as approved, by the UCSD Fire Marshal and Electrical and Civil permitting staff.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nextech Batteries, 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, § 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project will (1) design and test lithium-sulfur battery cells and modules and (2) install an approximately 150 kW interconnected field-prototype battery module system at an existing microgrid at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The majority of the project work, which includes modeling, design, engineering and testing of the battery cells and modules, will be conducted in an existing laboratory at UCSD. The project will not involve any construction activities. Minor modifications to existing facilities to connect the battery module system to the existing electrical transformer. The system will operate for a minimum of 12 months at a medium voltage (12kV) distribution level. This project is therefore categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA

Guidelines section 15301 as minor alterations to existing facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of an existing or former use at the sites.

The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15303 as the installation of small new equipment in small structures. The project does not involve any unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to any scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, none of the installation sites are included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project and the project, when considered as a whole, will not result in a cumulative impact that is significant on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Eleanor Oliver **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0800

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:** _____ **Title:** _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____