

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: Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.

Project Title: Mobile Hydrogen Fuel Cell Generation System

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
1000 E Victoria St	Carson 90747	Los Angeles
310 White Oak Dr	Santa Rosa 95409	Sonoma
3263 Industrial Blvd	Sacramento 95691	Yolo
431 E St	Santa Rosa 95404	Sonoma
155 S G St	San Bernardino 92410	San Bernardino
26431 Pine Ave,	Rimforest 92378	
24650 Ave Rockefeller	Santa Clarita 91355	Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The grant for this project will fund the demonstration of four MORBUG mobile green electrolytic hydrogen plus battery hybrid energy storage system with a maximum power output rating of 180kW. The project focuses on field testing and validating the performance of the MORBUG systems. During standby operation the MORBUG may provide grid services utilizing the battery systems. During a grid outage the MORBUG can island and use the hydrogen to provide extended backup power for the customer site. The MORBUGs can be redeployed to provide emergency power where it is needed in response to an extreme event. The data collected will validate the MORBUG's energy storage techno-economic performance.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Electric Power Research Institute, 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 ; 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:

This project involves the deployment and testing of four mobile energy storage systems (MORBUGs) that can produce standby power from renewable sources through the use of a fuel cell and backup energy storage system. The MORBUGs can act as a backup energy source during grid outages due to public safety power shutoff events, wildfires, or other natural disaster events.

Under this project, the MORBUGs will be mounted on a wheeled trailer and towed by a truck using public highways from the grant recipient's subcontractor's leasing office to the project sites. The trailers will be parked on prepared ground and connected to the site's electrical services on the customer's side of the meter. The MORBUGs will be tested at each site to validate their performance in comparison to fossil-fuel based standby generators. The sites' existing electrical panels, cables, circuit breaker and switch gear may require minor customer side of the meter upgrades to enable the MORBUG to connect. Fire and explosion safety precautions will be taken regarding hydrogen storage, batteries and other project components. The leased equipment will be returned to the leasing office at the end of the agreement. There will not be any emissions impact from this project as the fuel cells are a clean power source. There will be no permanent installations or construction at the sites since the MORBUG is portable.

This project is therefore categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines because it consists of the minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use at the sites.

The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines because it consists of the installation of small new equipment in small structures with only minor modifications to the structures.


The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to section 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines because it consists of basic data collection, research and resource evaluation activities which will not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource. 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 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. The project, when considered as a whole, will not result in a cumulative impact that is significant on the environment. Therefore, none of the exceptions to exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Robin Goodhand **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0766

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:** August 13, 2021 **Title:** _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____