

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Campus Planning Department
One Cyclotron Road, M/S 76-225
Berkeley, CA 94720

Project Title:	Small-Scale, Off-Site, Indoor Research Activities
Project Location:	Laboratories and Research Facilities
City:	Various
County:	Various

Description of Nature, Purpose, and beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):

UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory would continue to collaborate with academic institutions, including other UC campuses, and with public and private research facilities to participate in small-scale research activities, including data gathering, bench-top lab work and assembly, product and component testing, and sampling and monitoring. Such work would typically take place indoors and in established laboratory settings, engineering and assembly shops, or other appropriately designed research facilities. Activities would be consistent with the missions and permitted uses of such settings and would conform to all applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations.

Public Agency Approving Project:	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Agency Carrying Out Project:	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Exempt Status:	Categorical Exemption. Class 1, Existing Facilities
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Reasons why the project is exempt:

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, the Project would involve operation "of existing public and private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment" in a manner which is consistent with their designed and on-going use. All applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations would be followed; activities would be conducted by appropriately trained and qualified researchers and technicians.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 describes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location, cumulative impact, significant effect, scenic highway, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project. This Categorical Exemption would not be used in cases where research activities might trigger one or more of the Section 15300.2 exceptions.

Campus/Field Station/Division UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory **Project Account** N/A

Project Title Small-Scale, Off-Site, Indoor Research Activities

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - *[Insert brief project description, provide supporting documentation as appropriate.]*

Under the Project, UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (UC LBNL) would continue to collaborate with other entities, including government agencies, university and academic campuses, pharmaceutical and therapeutic companies, and technology-based companies, to participate in small-scale research activities, including data gathering, bench-top lab work and assembly, product and component testing, sampling and monitoring, and software development and packaging. Such work would typically take place indoors and in established laboratory settings, engineering and assembly shops, or other appropriately designed research facilities. All activities identified under the Project would be reviewed by Berkeley Lab's Site & Environmental Planners, who would then confirm their qualification under this Categorical Exemption and document their findings via Berkeley Lab's Electronic System for Research Administration (eSRA) system.

Project activities would be consistent with the intent, design, outfitting, and typically on-going work already being conducted at such facilities. Examples include bench-top research (small-scale biology, chemistry, materials sciences, etc.); use of specialized equipment such as microscopes, telescopes, detectors, etc.); fabrication, assembly, and/or testing of materials and devices (batteries, photo-voltaic cells, electronic components, etc.); operation of computing systems; and office work (desktop computing, report preparation, meetings and conferencing, etc.).

Project activities would take place in facilities that are appropriately zoned, equipped, and staffed with all necessary permits, licenses, and work authorizations. Staff would be properly trained and provided with appropriate personal protective equipment and would follow all applicable federal, state, and local safety rules, protocols, and procedures. Project activities would not generate uncontrolled emissions of hazardous air, water, or solid waste or otherwise create health, safety, or environmental hazards to the public or surroundings. While it is not possible to predict the detailed scopes and locations of all such future activities, to qualify for this Categorical Exemption they would be small-scale, discreet, and bounded in their scopes such that there would be negligible or no expansion of use, and environmental impacts would not be reasonably foreseeable.

The Project would be Categorically Exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15301 (**Class 1, Existing Facilities**). Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, the Project would involve operation "of existing public and private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment" in a manner which is consistent with their designed and on-going use.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 describes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location, cumulative impact, significant effect, scenic highway, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project. This Categorical Exemption would not be used in cases where research activities might trigger one or more of the Section 15300.2 exceptions.