

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: SPARKZ, Inc.

Project Title: Ultra-High Energy Lithium Metal Battery System Based on Solid Electrolyte and Cobalt Free Cathode

Project Location – Specific: 5625 Brisa St Ste B

Project Location – City: Livermore 94550 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this Agreement is to develop a solid-state lithium battery prototype able to cycle at room temperature and demonstrate the battery for drone use. This technology uses a lithium metal anode and solid, nonflammable electrolytes to increase safety and energy density while reducing battery costs. The team seeks to demonstrate an innovative freeze tape casting manufacturing method to increase energy density and lower costs. They will target an energy density over 350 Wh/Kg that can operate at 80% capacity for at least 100 cycles.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SPARKZ, 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, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. The project includes development of a solid-state lithium battery prototype able to cycle at room temperature and demonstrate the battery for drone use at an existing facility that is already designed for this type of work. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15306 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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


The project includes development of a solid-state lithium battery prototype able to cycle at room temperature and demonstrate the battery for drone use through analysis and testing. For these reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Joshua Croft **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 925-452-7638

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:** 3/17/2022 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist II

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

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