

**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:** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**Project Title:** California Residential Methane Emissions Characterization (CARMEC)

**Project Location:**

Address	City	County
Los Angeles area	Los Angeles	
San Francisco Bay Area	San Francisco	
Fresno area	Fresno	
Stockton area	Stockton	
Sacramento area	Sacramento	
Chico area	Chico	

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to conduct applied research to improve the characterization of residential methane emissions in California homes. The study will identify robust and accurate field measurement methods, apply the methods to quantify emissions under quiescent conditions and during appliance operation in a diverse sample of homes, monitor burner operating patterns and analyze factors that may contribute disproportionately to population emissions.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**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))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

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

The proposed activities are to conduct applied research to improve the characterization of residential methane emissions in California homes, which falls within this categorical exemption. The activities consist of data collection, paper studies, and laboratory work, including documenting, analyzing, and reporting results; conducting instrument cross-calibrations and analysis of methane samples and, collecting methane and other data samples from various indoor residential locations throughout California. Data collection will take place at residential homes and units in multifamily buildings. Laboratory testing and report writing will take place at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory main campus in Alameda.


The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not 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 categorical 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:** Maninder Thind **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0819

**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:** 6/16/2022 **Title:** Air Resources Engineer

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_