

**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:** The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Los Angeles Campus

**Project Title:** Pilot Testing and Assessment of Safety and Integrity of Targeted Hydrogen Blending in Gas Infrastructure for Decarbonization

**Project Location:**

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
404 Westwood Plz	Los Angeles 90095	Los Angeles
4108 New Hampshire Ave NW	Livermore 94550	Alameda
323 Engineering Laboratory Facility	Irvine 92697	Orange

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

Under grant Agreement PIR-22-003, the California Energy Commission will provide a grant of \$5,658,000 to the Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Los Angeles Campus (UCLA) to assess the feasibility, safety and integrity of targeted hydrogen blending in gas infrastructure by performing quantitative risk analysis, comprehensive lab tests and use case analysis. The project will help to decarbonize the California gas infrastructure and fill the existing knowledge gaps. The work will be done in office and laboratory settings and no site or field work will be performed. The project could provide benefits to the industrial use case partner of the project which is a cement plant, and potentially benefit other project partners as well.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Los Angeles Campus

**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 Section 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. The research activities under this project include comprehensive risk modeling and laboratory tests at material, component and system levels of gas infrastructure using blends of hydrogen and gas including 100% hydrogen. The risk modeling will be performed on computers, and laboratory tests will be done

in controlled environment of lab facilities. Hydrogen gas storage safety protocols will be followed. Based on these characteristics, the project is exempt under Section 15306.

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 sites (offices) are 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:** Yahui Yang **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0827

**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:** *Yahui Yang* **Date:** 9/21/2022 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

- Signed by Responsible Agency
- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

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