

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: BioVind, LLC

Project Title: Understanding of Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion (MIC) in Gas System and Development of Detection Methods

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
17102 Horst Ave (office)	Cerritos 90703	Los Angeles
To Be Determined (field work at gas facilities)	Los Angeles	Los Angeles
10210 Campus Point Dr (laboratory)	San Diego 92121	San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under grant agreement PIR-22-004, the California Energy Commission (CEC) will provide a grant of \$999,970 grant to BioVind, LLC to fund the development of a test kit and field-testing guide for detecting microbial species associated with microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) in gas pipelines and storage facilities. The innovative test kit will help lower the risk of MIC-related gas leakages and reduce costs associated with MIC detection, mitigation, and control. Laboratory work will be performed at an existing lab in San Diego. The project will include field work at existing Southern California Gas Company facilities to collect samples for test kit development and for pilot demonstration of the test kit.

The project will result in the ratepayer benefits of improved infrastructure resiliency and reliability, lowered costs due to improved MIC control, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced environmental impact of MIC treatment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: BioVind, LLC

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. This project involves computer modeling and paper studies to conduct a corrosion risk assessment of gas pipelines.

The field test kit will be developed and tested at a laboratory in San Diego. Field work (sampling and testing) will take place at existing Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) facilities, such as, but not limited to, pipelines and ancillary equipment, located in Los Angeles County. Field work is limited to existing SoCalGas facilities, and trenching, if necessary, is limited to SoCalGas-controlled property which has no sensitive environmental resources. The project will be managed at an office in Cerritos. This work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. For these reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

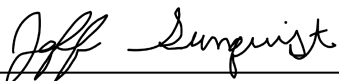
The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that 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 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: Jeffrey Sunquist **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0816

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:** 1/27/2023 **Title:** Comission Agreement Manager

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____