

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<p>TO:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Planning and Research P. O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044</p>	<p>FROM: Sonoma Clean Power Authority (Public Agency) 431 E Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Clerk 585 Fiscal Dr., # 103F Santa Rosa, CA 95403</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mendocino County Clerk 501 Low Gap Road Ukiah, CA 95482</p>	

<p>Project Title:</p>	<p>Geothermal Opportunity Zone Cooperation Agreement with Chevron New Energies</p>
<p>Project Applicant:</p>	<p>Sonoma Clean Power Authority, 431 E Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404</p>
<p>a) Project Location:</p>	<p>Sonoma County and Mendocino County</p>
<p>Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:</p>	<p>On March 2, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority (“SCPA”) approved the execution of the Geothermal Opportunity Zone (“GeoZone”) Cooperation Agreement with Chevron New Energies (“Agreement”).</p> <p>SCPA established a Geothermal Opportunity Zone (“GeoZone”) on October 7, 2021 to explore the opportunity to develop local geothermal resources in partnership with Mendocino County (joined by resolution on December 7, 2021) and Sonoma County (joined by resolution on February 8, 2022).</p> <p>New geothermal technologies and development approaches provide an opportunity to develop power projects that are commercially scalable, reduce environmental impacts, and provide benefits to the community.</p> <p>SCPA and Chevron New Energies entered into this Agreement to collaborate on development of new geothermal resources in the GeoZone. Chevron New Energies is expected to deploy new technology to increase the capacity of local geothermal resources in a manner compatible with community values in exchange for SCPA’s commitment to negotiate a purchase agreement</p>

	and to support community engagement and advocacy.
Name of Public Agency approving project:	Sonoma Clean Power Authority
Name of Person or Agency undertaking the project, including any person undertaking an activity that receives financial assistance from the Public Agency as part of the activity or the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement of use from the Public Agency as part of the activity:	Sonoma Clean Power Authority, Chevron New Energies
Exempt status: (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:	CEQA Guidelines §§ 15262, 15306
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Sense Exemption	CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency	
<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	
Reason why project was exempt:	<p>Authorizing the Delegated Authority is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15262, which exempts a project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the board has not approved. Additionally, the Project meets the criteria for a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (§ 15306). Class 6 exemptions consist 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.” Here, the Agreement is designed to conduct research and resource evaluations for geothermal energy within the GeoZone for future actions not yet approved by this board.</p> <p>None of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions set forth in State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 have any applicability here.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, the Agreement is additionally exempt under State CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3), which exempts those activities for which it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the cooperation agreements may have a significant impact on the environment. Implementation of the cooperation agreements will only give Chevron New Energies the ability to plan for the future potential development of geothermal resources that are aligned with the Geothermal Opportunity Zone objectives and community needs, and are in full compliance with all permitting obligations. As a result, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the cooperation agreements may have a significant impact on the environment.</p>
Lead Agency Contact Person:	Ryan Tracey
Telephone:	(720) 480-9641

Signature:  _____
 Ryan Tracey
 Director of Planning and Analytics

Date: 3/10/2023

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for Filing: _____

(Clerk Stamp Here)