

## Notice of Exemption

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**To:**  Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
 County Clerk, County of \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** University of California  
Physical & Environmental Planning  
1111 Franklin Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

**Project Title:** Solid Oxide Electrolysis Cell Demonstration Project

**Project Location** – UC San Diego La Jolla Campus, Center for Memory and Recording Research Laboratory

**Project Location – City:** San Diego

**Project Location – County:** San Diego

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):** The project would develop a superior-performance, high-durability, and low-cost solid oxide electrolysis cell (SOEC) and its corresponding manufacturing processes for hydrogen production from water. The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate this innovative technology that can be manufactured affordably at scale, operated efficiently and reliably at relevant conditions, and has the potential for a robust supply chain to support U.S. stack and system manufacturers. The proposed project would focus on three major technology demonstrations: (i) demonstration of manufacturing of cells and stacks of this advanced technology having the design features suitable for commercial components/products, (ii) demonstration of operation of cells and stacks with desired efficiency and durability characteristics suitable for commercial applications, and (iii) demonstration of cost effectiveness of the technology along with a complete specification of the manufacturing process suitable for near term path to commercialization. The project would take place within an existing built laboratory at the UC San Diego campus, no land or utility improvements would be necessary.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** University of California

**Parties Undertaking Project:** University of California; UC San Diego Center for Energy Research

**Exempt Status:**

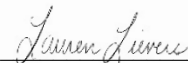
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b) (c));
- Categorical Exemption. Class 1 Existing Facilities (Sec. 15301)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 20180.35
- General Exemption (Sec. 15061(b)(3)).

**Reason Why Project is Exempt:** The demonstration project would involve the repurposing of an existing facility through installation of equipment into an existing laboratory space with only minor interior renovations/remodeling involved, if necessary. No utility connections or upgrades would be required.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Lauren Lievers

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (949) 939-3076

**Signature:**



Lauren Lievers

**Title:**

Principal Environmental Planner, Campus Planning

**Date:**

June 16, 2023

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant