

To: Office of Planning and Research
 PO Box 3044
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
 715 P Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: DNV Energy Insights USA Inc

Project Title: Strategies to Reduce Fireplace Air Leaks in Residential Buildings.

Project Location – Specific: 155 Grand Ave

Project Location – City: Oakland 94612 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This agreement will conduct research to develop an understanding of the air leakage in existing residential wood-burning and gas fireplaces, the associated energy loss, and the infiltration of particulate matter and NO_x with outside air. The proposed project will include installation of inflatable and/or bolt-on apparatuses on a limited number of residential chimneys, plus air quality monitoring equipment to collect data for a limited period.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DNV Energy Insights USA Inc

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, § 15301 ; 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:

The project fits within Cal. Code. Regs. tit. 14, § 15301 because it would only involve the minor alteration of existing structures such as installation of inflatable and/or bolt-on apparatuses on residential chimneys located in California, plus air quality monitoring equipment, for the purpose of blocking air flow through the chimney (only) during periods of disuse and no expansion of capacity. Installations would be made with the permission of each homeowner. None of the installations-which would be temporary and for research purposes only-would require a federal, state, or local permit. Moreover, none of the installations or other activities of the project would require statutory or other approval from a state or local agency, or a municipality.

Additionally, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15306 applies because this project also involves basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Karen Perrin **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0803

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: Karen Perrin **Date:** 7/28/2023 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist II

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____