

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: Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation

Project Title: Integrated Monitoring Approach to Reduce Entanglement Hazards for Floating Offshore Wind Developments

Project Location:

Address	City	County
1 Harpst St	Arcata 95521	Humboldt
101 Taylor Way #107	Blue Lake 95525	Humboldt
1529 W Sequim Bay Rd	Sequim 98382	
8825 Biological Grade	La Jolla 92093	San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this Agreement is to develop an environmental monitoring sensor package that will be able to detect debris entanglements with underwater mooring lines, transmit relevant information about the location of the entanglement to the surface, and deploy a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to inspect, identify, and characterize entangled debris. This novel technology could play a critical role in monitoring and protection activities for marine species and help developers and wildlife protection agencies better understand and mitigate the impacts of floating offshore wind (FOSW) developments deployed at utility scale.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation

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 and 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:

California Code of Regulations, title 14 section 15301 and California Code of Regulations, title 14 section 15306. California Code of Regulations, title 14 section 15301 provides that the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use is categorically exempt from CEQA. This project will involve research on environmental monitoring sensors to detect debris entanglements with

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.
 Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation

underwater mooring lines done at existing locations and facilities. There will be negligible to no expansion of the existing use of the facilities. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and the project is categorically exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14 section 15301.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15306 consists 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. This project involves research on environmental monitoring sensors to detect debris entanglements with underwater mooring lines done at existing locations and existing laboratory facilities. There will be negligible to no expansion of the existing use of the facilities. For these reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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: Michelle Slocombe **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0745

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: Michelle Slocombe **Date:** 7/28/23 **Title:** Sr. Environmental Scientist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____