

**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:** Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc.

**Project Title:** Techno-economic Assessment of Hydrogen as a Decarbonization Measure for California's Electric System

**Project Location – Specific:** 44 Montgomery St Ste 1500

**Project Location – City:** San Francisco 94104    **Project Location – County:** San Francisco

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

This project will develop a dataset of geologic formations in California that could enable low-cost hydrogen storage; develop new datasets for projected costs and performance of hydrogen technologies from production to end-use; and, develop new computational tools that enable determination of the optimal configuration of hydrogen production, storage, transport and end use equipment to serve California's decarbonizing electric sector. Using these updated tools, the recipient will explore a number of sensitivities to clarify in which sectors and in which applications hydrogen is most cost competitive. These sensitivities will provide insight into where support is needed along the hydrogen lifecycle to increase, or achieve cost competitiveness.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Energy and Environmental Economics, 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

Statutory Exemptions. State code number.

Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project involves only computer modeling and paper studies of hydrogen-based technologies. No physical construction will occur as part of this project. Therefore, it falls under the common sense exemption.

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Elyse Kedzie **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-805-7435

**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:** Elyse Kedzie **Date:** 08/03/2023 **Title:** Utilities Engineer

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_