

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: RAND Corporation

Project Title: Assessing the Role of Hydrogen in California's Decarbonizing Electric System

Project Location – Specific: 1776 Main Street

Project Location – City: Santa Monica 90401 **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will advance understanding of hydrogen technologies, how those technologies fit within California's overall energy transition planning, and provide an objective analysis to inform future investments in hydrogen technologies. This project will comprise a synthesis of literature review, utilization of open-source models, custom modeling developed in-house, and subject matter expert interviews. The study will scrutinize hydrogen technologies starting from the underlying physics of key nascent technologies which determine their performance and cost. Performance and cost data will then determine policy recommendations in of the context of other CEC data and reports, CA Independent System Operator data, US Energy Information Administration data, academic results, demand forecasting, and long duration energy storage requirement forecasting.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: RAND Corporation

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
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- 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: Jeffrey Sunquist **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0816

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: Jeff Sunquist Date: 8-3-2023 Title: Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____