

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: Integral Consulting Inc.

Project Title: Integrated, Real-Time, Multi-Scale System for Monitoring Seabird Interactions with Floating Offshore Wind Technologies

Project Location – Specific: 200 Washington St Ste 201

Project Location – City: Santa Cruz 95060 **Project Location – County:** Santa Cruz

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to develop and validate an integrated, real-time, multi-scale system to monitor and characterize avian interactions (e.g., collision and avoidance) with floating offshore wind (FOSW) technologies. The Recipient will evaluate and validate radar, three-dimensional thermal imaging, and blade-mounted sensors for macro-, meso-, and micro-scale assessments. The project will involve testing a radar system, thermal tracker three-dimensional system, and blade strike sensors. The radar system will be tested at an existing onshore California location that has an abundance of offshore-appropriate size and behavior bird species, as well as utilizing drones as surrogate targets. The TT3D system will be tested in an existing onshore, relevant laboratory environment. The blade strike sensors will be tested using representative blades at Sandia National Laboratories' existing onshore Scaled Wind Farm Technology testing facility in Lubbock, Texas. Results will improve cost-competitiveness of FOSW, minimize non-technical risks associated with environmental permitting, and increase knowledge of potential wildlife impacts in marine waters offshore California.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Integral Consulting 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
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project will involve environmental monitoring technologies research conducted at existing locations and testing facilities. Therefore, 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. Therefore, the project is categorically exempt under California Code of Regulations, title 14 section 15301.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mark Danielson **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-805-7515

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: Mark Danielson **Date:** 08/14/2023 **Title:** Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____