

## Notice of Exemption

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

**From:** UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Campus Planning Department  
One Cyclotron Road, M/S 76-225  
Berkeley, CA 94720

<b>Project Title:</b>	Building System Energy-Saving Pilot Projects
<b>Project Location:</b>	Existing buildings and facilities
<b>City:</b>	Berkeley + Various
<b>County:</b>	Alameda + Various

### Description of Nature, Purpose, and beneficiaries of Project (Project Description):

UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (UC LBNL) would continue to collaborate with government agencies, including the California Energy Commission; academic institutions, including other UC campuses; and with public and private research facilities to participate in pilot-level planning, design, installation and operational support, and monitoring of energy-saving and/or low-emission equipment and materials on single or small numbers of existing buildings and facilities. Equipment may include building-level electrical distribution, HVAC, solar energy, heat pump, and plumbing systems. Materials may include insulation, windows, and exterior- and roofing-skins.

The purpose of these pilot-level tests would be to advance building technology for superior outcomes in energy savings, human health, and environmental performance at lower costs. Work would typically take place indoors or on the exterior of existing buildings and facilities as well as in established laboratory settings, engineering and assembly shops, or other appropriately designed research facilities. Activities would be consistent with the missions and permitted uses of such settings and would conform to all applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations.

<b>Public Agency Approving Project:</b>	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
<b>Agency Carrying Out Project:</b>	UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

<b>Exempt Status:</b> Categorical Exemption	<b>Class 1,</b> Existing Facilities <b>Class 2,</b> Replacement or Reconstruction <b>Class 6,</b> Information Collection
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### Reasons why the project is exempt:

Consistent with CEQA Guidelines **Section 15301**, the Project would involve "minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment" in a manner consistent with their designed and on-going use. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines **Section 15302**, the Project would involve "replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible expansion of capacity." Consistent with CEQA Guidelines **Section 15306**, Information Collection, the Project would involve "basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource." All applicable health, safety, and environmental rules and regulations would be followed; activities would be conducted by appropriately trained and qualified technicians and researchers. Energy use and emissions of existing facilities would generally be lowered by project implementation.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 describes a number of exceptions to categorical exemptions, which include the following: location, cumulative impact, significant effect, scenic highway, hazardous waste sites, and historical resources. These exceptions have been determined not to apply to the Project. This Categorical Exemption would not be used in cases where research activities might trigger one or more of the Section 15300.2 exceptions.



Signature

Oct. 3, 2023

Date

Sr. Site & Environmental Planner, UC LBNL

Title/Lead Agency

Campus/Field Station/Division UC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Project Account N/A

Project Title Building System Energy-Saving Pilot Projects

For purposes of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), and Amended University of California Procedures for Implementation of CEQA, this project has been reviewed and initially classified as indicated below. Please check (X) as appropriate. Include project description and appropriate local map with your submission.

I. **EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT OF 1970** - When it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the action will result in physical change to the environment (15061(b)(3)), or the action is specifically exempted by statute (15260-15285), the project is classified as generally exempt from CEQA. General/Statutory Exemption: § [Insert applicable CEQA Guidelines Section]

II. **CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT** - This project falls under the indicated Class(es) of Exemption(s), none of the exceptions to the exemption apply (15300.2), and there is no significant effect on the environment (for complete list see CEQA Guidelines Section 15300):

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities           | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 17: Open Space Contracts or Easements                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 23: Normal Operation of Facilities for Public Gatherings      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction or Small Structures     | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 25: Transfer of Land: Natural Conditions/Historical Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land                | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions: Prevent Hazardous Waste/Substances         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection        | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 31: Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 32: In-Fill Development Projects                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 13: Acquisition for Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 16: Transfer of Land Ownership for Parks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>[If other, Identify which class under Section 15300]</u>  |

III. **INITIAL STUDY** - This project is not statutorily or categorically exempt from CEQA; an Initial Study is to be prepared to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

Stand-Alone  Tiered Initial Study (15152): [Identify EIR from which Initial Study is tiered]

IV. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)** - It is known that the project will have a direct or cumulatively significant effect on the environment and an EIR will be/has been prepared. Identify the type of EIR:

Programmatic  Stand-Alone (Project-Specific) [Identify EIR title]

Additional project analysis:

None/Findings Only  Addendum  Subsequent  Supplement to EIR: [Identify EIR from which document is tiered/based]

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** - [Insert brief project description, provide supporting documentation as appropriate.]

Real estate transaction type: Acquisition Sale Lease Easement License [Include proposed use in project description below]

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V. Does this project conform to the approved LRDP? YES NO NA [If NO or NA, include explanation in Project Description above]

VI. [Signature]  
Prepared by: Jeff Philliber

Oct. 3, 2023  
Date

[Signature]  
Local Approved by: Jeff Philliber

Oct. 3, 2023  
Date

VII. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Concur with Classification  Do not concur with Classification

Not Required

Signed

Date