

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: The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus

Project Title: The California Environmental Flows Framework: A Holistic Functional Flows Approach to Instream Flow Determinations for the FERC Hydropower Relicensing Process

Project Location – Specific: Center for Watershed Sciences 425 La Rue Road, Davis, CA 95616

Project Location – City: Davis Project Location – County: Yolo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is focused on paper research and modelling with some stakeholder engagement and web tool development. The purpose is to fund the application of the California Environmental Flows Framework (CEFF) and the concept of Functional Flows as an innovative approach to instream flow determinations and associated water release management for hydropower projects in order to improve downstream ecological conditions. Tasks include analysis of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing projects within the last two decades, demonstration of application of CEFF for the McCloud-Pit Hydroelectric Project relicensing an example case study, and development of web resources to support application of CEFF for hydropower projects. This Agreement will result in benefits for ratepayers by streamlining the planning and study processes required as part of FERC relicensing.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus

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, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is focused on paper research and modelling with some stakeholder engagement and web tool development. There is no alteration of the physical environment within this project.

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.
The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Julia Harnad **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-477-1302

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: J. Harnad **Date:** 1/31/2024 **Title:** ECS II (CAM)

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____