

Notice of Exemption

TO: Office of Planning and Research FROM: California Energy Commission
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212 715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814 Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Final 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report (*Final 2023 IEPR*)

Project Location: Statewide

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Adoption of biennial integrated energy policy report mandated by Public Resources Code § 25302(a) to "conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices" and to "use these assessments and forecasts to develop and evaluate energy policies and programs that conserve resources, protect the environment, ensure energy reliability, enhance the state's economy, and protect public health and safety." Pursuant to the March 29, 2023 Scoping Order for the proceeding, the *Final 2023 IEPR* includes findings and recommendations for: accelerating the connection of clean energy technologies with the electric grid; updating the California Energy Demand Forecast; analyzing the potential growth of hydrogen; and providing updates, including gas decarbonization, estimation of benefits from the transition to clean transportation systems, strategies and options for the use of gas, and implementation of energy efficiency measures.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Energy Commission

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption: State type and section number: Class 6 Information Collection, Section 25306;
- Statutory Exemption: State code number: _____
- Other: Adoption of the *2023 IEPR* not a "project" for CEQA purposes, and is otherwise exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to the "common sense" exemption (CEQA Guidelines, 15061, subd. (b)(3)).

Reasons why project is exempt: The above-described action is not a "project" under CEQA because no commitment to any specific project is made in the *Final 2023 IEPR* and approving it will not cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment.

However, in the event that the adoption of the *Final 2023 IEPR* were determined to be a project, the CEC has determined that it would nonetheless be exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to the “common sense” exemption (CEQA Guidelines, § 15061, subd. (b)(3)) for the same reason, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of the *Final 2023 IEPR* may have a significant effect on the environment.

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Signature: Reneé F Webster-Hawkins Date: 2/21/2024

Title: Senior Attorney

Signed by the Lead Agency Date received for filing by OPJ _____

Authority cited: Public Resources Code § 25302(a); CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).

Reference: Public Resources Code § 21108.