

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: U.S. Department of Energy, Sandia National Laboratories

Project Title: Evaluation of Long Duration Energy Storage Technologies

Project Location – Specific: 7011 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

Project Location – City: Livermore **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under this agreement with Sandia National Laboratories for a \$2,000,000.00 federal cost share grant through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement, Sandia National Labs will perform critical evaluation of energy storage technologies and technoeconomic analysis to assist the CEC in the implementation of LDES demonstration projects. Sandia National Labs will develop tools to quantify the greenhouse gas emissions reductions and participate in knowledge sharing, such as the DOE LDES Consortium, to share best practices for wider adaptation of LDES in the US.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Department of Energy, Sandia National Laboratories

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:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. (Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code.) This project involves evaluation of energy storage technologies and technoeconomic analysis to support implementation of various LDES demonstration projects and does not include any serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code. Sandia National Laboratories

The project activity is also covered by the common sense exemption 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. The work performed under this agreement includes various analysis of energy storage technology, site visits, development of GHG emission reduction quantification, development of safety reports and web-based tools to support long duration energy storage projects and there is no possibility that these activities may have a significant effect on the environment. Any LDES demonstration projects that may utilize the analysis or other information developed will be approved through separate agreements.


The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Caitlin Planchard **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-637-8128

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:  **Date:** 4/24/2024 **Title:** Utilities Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____