

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 Los Angeles Campus

Project Title: System Approach for Monitoring and Risk Assessment for Natural Force Damage to Gas Pipelines

Project Location:

Address	City	County
37.653679, -121.806890	Livermore 94550	Alameda
38.0013114, -121.4899512	Stockton 95219	San Joaquin
66 Ranch Dr	Milpitas 95035	Santa Clara
UC Irvine	Irvine 92697	Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will utilize a novel approach to integrate technologies to monitor and track ground motion and impacts on pipeline integrity in California through a complete system approach to help pipeline operators make effective decisions in near real-time. Data will be collected using technologies that are divided into two groups: direct measurements (technologies measuring pipe strain) and indirect measurements (technologies measuring ground displacement). These two approaches to data collection will facilitate monitoring of geohazard impacts under any natural hazard ground motion scenario (i.e., earthquake, landslide, subsidence, and liquefaction).

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 Los Angeles 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, § 15301 ; 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:

California. Code Regs., tit 14, section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project will collect data using technologies that are divided into two groups: direct measurements (technologies measuring

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

pipe strain) and indirect measurements (technologies measuring ground displacement). For this project, four sites have been identified. Multi-year satellite images will be collected at a site in Livermore that has been subjected to recent landslide movements. Two more sites are located at existing PG&E facilities where real-time ground motion sensors will be installed to measure ground movements in real-time. The last site is at UC Irvine, where controlled field calibration will evaluate measurement accuracy. These minor modifications will not result in expanding the capacity or use of the facility.

This project is also exempt under California Code Regs., tit 14, section 15306 which 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 the California Environmental Quality Act. This project will collect data within the field in real-time, for at least 12 months. Remote and embedded sensing approaches to data collection will facilitate monitoring of geohazard impacts under any natural hazard ground motion scenario (i.e., earthquake, landslide, subsidence, and liquefaction). The instruments will be accessed remotely to obtain the data recorded. With the data, a pipeline fragility (or capacity) model will then be employed to combine both direct and indirect measurements to provide a prediction of the gas pipeline probability of failure. Finally, the data processing algorithms and fragility model will be incorporated into a user-friendly, free, and open-source software package for gas pipeline operator decision-making. These activities will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under the exemptions in sections 15301 and 15306.


This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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: Sean Anayah **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** (916) 931-5044

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:** 08/17/2023 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist I

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____