

**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:** City of Pinole

**Project Title:** Pinole Building Energy Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Measures Implementation

**Project Location – Specific:**

City Hall	2131 Pear Street
Pinole Senior Center	2500 Charles Ave
Pinole Youth Center	635 Tennent Ave
Public Safety Building	880 Tennent Ave
Wastewater Treatment Plant	11 Tennent Ave
Corporation Yard	11 Tennent Ave
Pinole Tiny Tots	2454 Simas Ave

**Project Location – County:** Contra Costa County

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The California Energy Commission grant agreement EECBG-24-004 with City of Pinole for a \$700,000 will replenish the Pinole Energy Enhancement Rebate Pilot Program; support development of a virtual all-electric building resource center; draft building performance standard program, municipal building decarbonization plan, permitting compliance program, water heater loaner program, green workforce training program, and photovoltaic microgrid system design for the wastewater treatment plant.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** City of Pinole

**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. 14 CCR 15262
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306 projects consisting of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This project involves community outreach, design of ZEV charging infrastructure at 15 existing County-owned locations and one existing Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

public facility, and development of cost estimates and an implementation plan. The project also includes identifying gaps and updating local guidelines for EV charging infrastructure. The proposed project's outreach and planning activities will have no significant effect on the environment and fall within the categorical exemption of section 15306.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 provides that projects that consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, and minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project involves designing, planning and permitting for EV charging infrastructure at 16 existing facilities sites. The planning for EV charging will support existing fleets and public use of the existing facilities and would be considered a negligible expansion of use. Therefore, the project falls under Section 15301 and will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 § 15262 applies projects involving only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an environmental document. This project involves community outreach, design of ZEV charging infrastructure at existing County-owned locations, cost estimates and an implementation plan and will not have a significant impact on the environment

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; do not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; do 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 sites are not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the projects 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 these projects will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Public Agency**

**Contact Person:** Lien Huynh **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-246-8252

**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:** *Lien Huynh* **Date:** 11-26-2024 **Title:** Commission Agreement  
**Manager**

**Signed by Public Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_