

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: Evaluation and Optimization of Orographic Cloud Seeding to Enhance Precipitation in California

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
1 Shields Ave	Davis 95616	Yolo
10162 Bunny Hill Dr.	Soda Springs 95728	Nevada
3450 Mitchell Ln	Boulder 80301	
501 2Nd St	Davis 95616	Yolo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will evaluate and improve understanding of how to optimize orographic cloud seeding in California in order to enhance precipitation and runoff into hydroelectric reservoirs. The project will examine the lifecycle of enhanced snowfall from seeding, using a multidisciplinary approach. This approach includes assessing the impact of background aerosol and cloud condensation nuclei concentrations, coupling of models that make it possible to simulate the impacts of seeding from precipitation through to melt and runoff, and the recipient will partner closely with energy stakeholders to determine how best the research results can be leveraged to meet the state's statutory energy goals.

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:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15306 consists 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.

This project is a computer modeling project that will take measurements, gather existing data, and apply computer modeling to assess the impact of background aerosol and cloud condensation nuclei concentrations. The project

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.
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team plans to augment existing instrumentation at the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Laboratory, a research field station, with aerosol and cloud sensors during the winter season to obtain in situ measurements of background aerosol and cloud condensation nuclei concentrations along the Sierra Nevada crest relevant to this project. The obtained aerosol observations will inform background cloud condensation nuclei and ice nucleating particle concentrations in the modeled simulations, and the results will be presented in paper reports.

This work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. For these reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

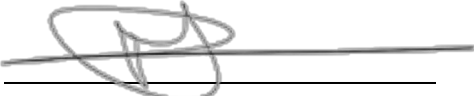
The project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts 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: Martine Schmidt-Poolman Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-776-0808

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: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____