

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. The City of Pinole will compile information related to electric buildings, research policies and programs, conduct outreach, draft a feasibility Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

analysis and policy goals. The city will develop decarbonization plans for certain municipal buildings, develop a permitting compliance program, a water heater loaner program, supports a rebate program for energy efficiency measures, and green workforce training all related to decarbonization. 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. The project includes the design of a solar PV microgrid system at the city's existing wastewater treatment plant but does not involve any physical alterations of the site. Therefore, the project falls under Section 15301 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:** 12-16-2024 **Title:** Commission Agreement
Manager

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____