

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: County of Santa Clara

Project Title: Community Building Decarbonization Planning: Neighborhood Electrification
Planning Pilot Program

Project Location – Specific: Multiple Locations

Project Location – City: Santa Clara Project Location – County: Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Energy Commission grant agreement EECBG-24-003 with the County of Santa Clara for \$700,000 will support the development of the Neighborhood Electrification Planning Pilot Program, Permit Support Pilot and Modernization Program, and planning for the replacement of county domestic hot water heaters and gas heat packaged units with more sustainable alternatives.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Clara

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:

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 development of a Neighborhood Electrification Planning Pilot Program through community outreach, research and home electrification planning, development of the Permit Support Pilot and Modernization Program, and planning for municipal building decarbonization through the replacement of county domestic hot water heaters and gas heat packaged units with more sustainable alternatives. 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 community engagement, funding studies and electrification planning to decarbonize

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

existing residential facilities; plans to update and improve local or regional permitting programs, permitting compliance, and compliance assistance operations within existing municipal facilities; and planning the implementation of a portion of the County's building decarbonization program for its existing facility portfolio. The activities will support existing uses of the residential and municipal facilities and will involve negligible or no expansion of use. 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: _____