

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: Prospect Silicon Valley

Project Title: Enhancing Building Resilience and Affordability through Distributed Smart Home Panels with Portable Batteries: Packaged Solutions for Electrification Challenges

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
3101 Boyd Rd	Arcata 95521	Humboldt
520 CA-96 N	Willow Creek 95573	Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Project will install smart panels coupled with modular plug-in batteries at residential units of two multifamily housing developments in Humboldt County. The project will also demonstrate how existing electric panels can be outfitted with smart circuit controls to allow for flexible load management and automatic safe islanding. The technology being deployed will not trigger electric utility service upgrades.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Prospect Silicon Valley

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
- 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, Section 15301 provides that the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project will involve minor alteration of existing facilities by integrating existing electrical panels with adjacent smart electrical panels and installing on-site stationary batteries to flexibly manage onsite electrical load. The project will not have a significant impact on local air quality, noise, or traffic. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 C.C.R. §15301.

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; 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: Tanner Kural **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0783

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:** 9/13/2024 **Title:** Electric Generation System Specialist

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____