

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: Charge Bliss, Inc.

Project Title: Valley Children's Hospital-Resilient Healthcare Services

Project Location – Specific: 9300 Valley Children’s Pl

Project Location – City: Madera 93636 **Project Location – County:** Madera

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The agreement will initially provide \$4,328,572 for the first phase, consisting of preliminary engineering, detailed project planning, and commercial scale designs, of a future 3.3-Megawatt (MW)/33 Megawatt-hour (MWh) non-lithium-ion long duration energy storage (LDES) system to fully support the emergency power of the Valley Children's Hospital (VCH) in Madera, California. Additional environmental review must be completed, and further CEC approval is needed, before any further work may be initiated. The LDES system will be operated in concert with a commercial microgrid being funded by VCH featuring 2.2MW of fuel cell capacity, 1.2MW of solar photovoltaic, and 2.8 MWh LDES.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Charge Bliss, Inc.

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 section 15306 provides that basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This first phase of this project, the only approved activities are strictly for information gather purposes, which may lead to an action the CEC might approve in the future.

The purpose of this first phase of the energy storage system is to complete the engineering and commercial-scale designs. This will include finalization of a Project Management Plan (PMP), a Risk Management Plan (RMP), an Intellectual Property Management Plan (IPMP), an initial financial model for the entire DOE 4-phase effort, and final site selection for the various technologies to be included in the LDES Demonstration. The approved is only to prepare all of these planning and preparation documents. Preparation of these documents is strictly for informational purposes and will not

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

cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in 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; 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: Javier Flores **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-931-9604

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:** 2/13/25 **Title:** Associate Electrical Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____