

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: DOE- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Project Title: OBC-FLEX: Enabling Interoperable Demand Flexibility in Commercial Buildings

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
333 S Twin Oaks Valley Rd	San Marcos 92096	
2600 Mission Bell Dr	San Pablo 94806	Contra Costa
1000 E Victoria St	Carson 90747	Los Angeles
5500 Campanile Dr	San Diego 92182	San Diego
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	Berkeley 94720	Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project aims to develop, implement, and showcase innovative and interoperable control sequences, workflows, tools and products to deploy energy-efficient and demand-flexible controls in large commercial buildings at scale (OBC-FLEX). These sequences will be integrated into five commercial Building Automation System (BAS) and Energy Management and Information System (EMIS) platforms and deployed in 4-9 real buildings, totaling up to 700k sqft. Their performance will be tested by a third party M&V evaluator and two major utilities and one CCA will support the campuses' enrollment in DR programs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DOE- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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:

California Code of Regulations, title 14, Section 15301, provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed project will involve potential upgrades of existing controllers/servers and/or software to enable Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

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advanced demand flexibility. Depending on the site, there may be a need to install additional networking gateways. At the LBNL main campus, work will involve software development, simulation and bench-top testing of electronic control systems and controls testing in appropriately outfitted office and laboratory spaces. At the demonstration locations, work will include control networking and software retrofits. Therefore, since this project will involve minor alterations of existing sites with negligible to no expansion of existing or former use, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15301.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306, provides that projects which 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 are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The project's goal is to collect data and evaluate resources without causing a major disturbance to environmental resources. Therefore, this project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15306.

Additionally, 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: Brad Williams **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-258-2951

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:** 03/04/2025 **Title:** Project Manager

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____