

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: UNIGRID Inc.

Project Title: Advanced Sodium-ion Battery Production in California

Project Location – Specific: 10140 Mesa Rim Rd Unit 4

Project Location – City: San Diego 92121 Project Location – County: San Diego

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this Agreement is to fund the design, build-out, and validation of a Low-Rate Initial Production (LRIP) line to manufacture advanced Sodium-ion Batteries (NIB) featuring greater specific energy density than commercially available NIBs and anodes that do not solely contain hard carbon ("alternative anode"). The recipient's sodium-ion battery is a viable candidate for residential energy storage applications due to the superior safety properties, excellent energy density and lower cost compared to lithium-ion batteries due to the use of abundant sodium-based materials.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: UNIGRID 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, § 15301
- 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 have negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project involves the design, build-out, and validation of a battery manufacturing line at an existing facility. The project involves the operation of the recipient's existing structures and mechanical equipment. The project will not involve any new construction or modification of existing facilities. Therefore, this project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA under section 15301.

This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not

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

UNIGRID Inc.

