

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: Guidehouse Inc.

Project Title: Guidehouse Proposal for Compliance, Monitoring, and Reporting Support for Federal Funding

Project Location – Specific: 101 California St Ste 4100 San Francisco, CA 94111-5886

Project Location – City: San Francisco, CA **Project Location – County:** San Francisco

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this contract is to provide assistance with the administrative monitoring, reporting, compliance, and auditing support requirements associated with federal funding received by the CEC through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Guidehouse 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:

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

Each exemption provides an independent basis for finding the project exempt.

14 CCR §15306 provides that activities of basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are therefore exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This proposed project fits within this exemption because it will provide support to CEC staff in a variety of technical areas involving information and data gathering, evaluation of requirements, assistance with compliance, and provides support for future audits. The project activities are primarily office-based and performed on computers and include identification

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

and compliance assistance with federal funding requirements, developing training on federal compliance and reporting requirements, providing management support and guidance on federal reporting and subrecipient monitoring, financial management practices for federal awards, and technical assistance related to the evaluation of potential subrecipients.

14 CCR § 15061(b)(3) provides that the common-sense exemption applies only to projects where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and that the activity is not subject to CEQA. This proposed project fits within this exemption because it will not involve any construction or construction-related activities, and the activities will be primarily conducted in an office setting using computers. Project activities include identification and compliance assistance with federal funding requirements, developing training on federal compliance monitoring and reporting requirements, and providing management support and guidance on federal reporting and subrecipient monitoring, financial management practices for federal awards, and technical assistance related to the evaluation of potential subrecipients.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Reta Ortiz **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0801

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: *Reta Ortiz* **Date:** 07/17/25 **Title:** ECS II

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____