

**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:** Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis campus

**Project Title:** BALANCE: Biologically Appropriate Lighting Aligning Nature Conservation and Energy Efficiency

**Project Location – Specific:** 633 Pena Dr

**Project Location – City:** Davis 95618      **Project Location – County:** Yolo

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

The project is focused on paper research and computer modeling with some stakeholder engagement. There is no alteration of the physical environment within this project. The research will utilize a combination of scientific symposiums, lab experiments, spatial analysis, ecological modeling on key species groups in California comparing the impact of two or more different lighting spectrum adjustment options, and quantitative analysis to assess the effects of different lighting spectra, shielding, and intensity on various species. Research will take place at the existing Visual Performance Laboratory (VPL) at the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) at the University of California, Davis Campus.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Regents of the University of California

**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 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, Section 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 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project falls within these parameters.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, Section 15301, “Existing Buildings,” covers the operation, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The grant activities will be conducted at an existing laboratory at UC Davis, and the stakeholder meetings will either be virtual or take place at existing meeting facilities. There will be no expansion of the existing use of the facilities, and there will not be a significant effect on the environment.

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

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:** Julia Harnad **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-477-1302

**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:** J. Harnad **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist II

**Signed by Public Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_