Notice of Exemption **Form D**

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: Long Hill Energy Partners, LLC

Project Title: Storage Technology and New Energy Resiliency Demonstration (STANDERD)

Project Location – Specific: 335 E Avenue I

Project Location – City: Lancaster 93535 **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The purpose of this project is to fund the design, construction, and operation of an innovative, low-cost 0.5-megawatt / 8 megawatt-hour organic redox flow battery system to provide energy resiliency to the High Desert Regional Health Center, which serves communities located in critical Very High Fire Hazard Severity and Seismic Hazard Zones in northern Los Angeles County. This agreement will be an important commercial pilot of Quino Energy's organic flow battery system verifying performance and cost-savings for the proposed use-cases. The flow battery system will deliver electricity cost savings and facility-wide energy resiliency to Los Angeles county's health center, located in a disadvantaged and low-income community.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Long Hill Energy Partners, LLC

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, § 15303 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15304
- ☐ 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, sect. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alternations of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Examples listed in section 15301 include, but are not limited to, existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or

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

other public utility services. The proposed project will install and demonstrate an 8 megawatt-hour organic redox flow battery system to provide energy resiliency to the High Desert Regional Health Center at 335 E Avenue I, Lancaster. The demonstration will be located on an existing, unoccupied, brownfield site. Thus, the Project will involve the minor alternation of an existing power generation facility and would not result in expansion of use. This project will result in negligible or no expansion of use beyond that already existing. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15303 provides that projects which consist of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure, are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Up to 1,000 feet of trenching at a depth of 4 feet will be required to install electrical cable and then backfilled. Ground surface will be covered with crushed gravel and containers will be placed on helical piers. Associated support equipment (inverters, transformers, switchgear, metering) will be installed on concrete pads. Therefore, the proposed project falls within section 15303 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sect. 15304 provides that projects which consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Examples listed in section 15304 include, but are not limited to, minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. The proposed project consists of up to 1,000 feet trenching and backfilling in bare land for installation of electric cable. The Project would not remove any healthy, mature, or scenic trees. The trenching would be temporary and the surface would be restored. Therefore, the project falls within section 15304 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Additionally, the project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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: Elyse Kedzie **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 279-250-8852

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: Elyse Kedzie **Date:** 8/19/2025 **Title:** Utilities Engineer

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant** **Date received for filing at OPR:** _____

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