

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: Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.

Project Title: Assessing VGI in California: Techno-Economic Merit and Implementation Strategies

Project Location – Specific: 3420 Hillview Ave

Project Location – City: Palo Alto 94304 **Project Location – County:** Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project will develop a modeling framework to provide clear insights into technical and economic potential of vehicle grid integration (VGI) approaches in California. The framework will leverage pre-existing modeling tools and real-world distribution feeder data from California investor owned utilities to bridge knowledge gaps preventing VGI deployment at scale. The key learnings and findings from this project will inform policy decisions and business strategies, allowing for greater electricity reliability, increased safety, and avoided distribution upgrades via VGI solutions. Project activities primarily involve modeling and data analysis.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Electric Power Research Institute, 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:

California Code of Regulations, title 14, §15306 provides that projects which consist of the 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. This project involves leveraging pre-existing software tools and collecting distribution feeder data to develop a replicable modeling framework and generate key findings to inform policy decisions and business strategies. Therefore, this project is exempt from CEQA under section 15306.

California Code of Regulations, title 14, § 15061(b)(3) provides that 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. This project is a paper study that will leverage existing software tools and distribution feeder data to develop and implement a modeling framework.

This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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 sites are 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: Emily Ou **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-6334

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: Emily Ou **Date:** 9/18/2025 **Title:** CAM

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____