

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: SirenOpt Inc.

Project Title: Cold Atmospheric Plasma-Based Inspection & Real-Time Process Control of Electrode Materials to Enable High-Performance Battery Manufacturing

Project Location:

Address	City	County
8000 Edgewater Dr Ste 200	Oakland 94621	Alameda
15555 E 14th St	San Leandro 94578	Alameda
31057 Genstar Rd Ste A	Hayward 94544	Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project is applied research and development in which the Recipient will design, develop, and test an inline thin film metrology platform, based on cold atmospheric plasmas, for electrode measurement and characterization; perform third party interviews; and develop software and machine learning tools to increase the effectiveness of the platform. The purpose of the project is to scale this platform so that it can be used in battery production to more quickly and thoroughly inspect battery electrode materials. The immediate beneficiaries are battery manufacturers; the ultimate beneficiaries will be California ratepayers, through the provision of safer and less expensive batteries for mobile devices and stationary energy storage.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: SirenOpt 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:

Cal. Code Regs. (CCR), Title 14, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This project will advance innovative battery manufacturing inspection and process control technologies to the pilot-scale demonstration stage through applied research and development and scalable integration into commercial research and development (R&D) electrode

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

SirenOpt Inc.

manufacturing (EM) workflows and high-volume EM lines, and by demonstrating how the inline electrode inspection solution will enable real-time process control and process optimization. The project will be carried out in two separate facilities, where work for the project will be moved near the beginning of the project from one facility (located in Oakland, California) to another facility (located in San Leandro, California).

The facility in Oakland, CA is approximately 3,000 square foot (sf) in size and includes combined office and lab space. At this facility there is no permitting required to conduct research and test equipment for this project, or to perform other work for this project as listed within its scope of work (SOW).

The facility in San Leandro, CA is approximately 10,000 sf in size and includes combined office and lab space. At this facility there is no permitting required to conduct research and test equipment for this project, or to perform other work for this project as listed within its SOW.

To support SOW Subtask 3.2, a project partner has committed the use of their facility to support this project. The existing facility is located in Hayward, is approximately 20,818 sf in size, and includes combined office (including conference room, single office, kitchen, and multipurpose), wet lab, dry room, and shop space. Recipient will develop procedures for pairing the inline metrology sensor platform with the digital factory host at the partner's site and evaluate the metrology sensor's performance under relevant electrode manufacturing processing conditions. All performance testing will occur, and all equipment will be placed within the existing facility.

The project will involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. Specifically, the project includes operation of existing facilities, mechanical equipment, electronic and electrical equipment, and negligible change of use for each location. Additionally, the project will not result in the addition to floorspace of the existing structures, and there will be only minor interior alterations or construction associated with the project.

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 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.

For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under section 15301.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Benson Gilbert **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-352-0595

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: Benson Gilbert **Date:** October 9, 2025 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist II

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____