

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: Verne Inc.

Project Title: Bringing Rapid Innovation to Distributed Green Energy with Cryo-Compressed Hydrogen

Project Location – Specific: 1521 W Anaheim St

Project Location – City: Long Beach 90813

Project Location – County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project aims to design, build, and demonstrate a cost-effective cryo-compressed hydrogen (CcH2) distribution system to deliver zero-emission electricity for California's ratepayers, addressing grid supply constraints and electrification challenges. The project will develop a cryo-compressed hydrogen trailer with higher capacity than traditional trailers and a cryo-cooler that is 50% cheaper than hydrogen liquefaction at similar scales. This system will provide hydrogen-to-power solutions for commercial operations, including battery-electric vehicle charging, bypassing grid limitations and reducing dependency on costly infrastructure upgrades.

Key activities include:

- Design and Development: Creating a high-capacity CcH2 trailer, filling station, and cryo-cooling system.
- Procurement and Installation: Assembling the equipment at WestAir's Long Beach facility and ensuring operational reliability through rigorous testing.
- Commercial Demonstration: Operating the system in a real-world environment to validate performance, efficiency, and scalability.
- Knowledge Transfer and Benefits Analysis: Sharing results to promote adoption and assessing the economic, environmental, and technological benefits.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Verne 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:

The CEQA exemption under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities, applies. Section 15301 covers the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or

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

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private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. This project involves the designing and building of a mobile cryo-compressed hydrogen distribution platform. Both design and build activities will take place in existing research facilities. The mobile cryo-compressed hydrogen distribution platform will then be temporarily demonstrated at existing facilities in Long Beach, California, without the need for additional construction. The deployment of this fueling system is not expected to increase activity at the demonstration site beyond normal. Hydrogen safety rules will be followed, according to a hydrogen safety plan.

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.

Public Agency

Contact Person: Heriberto Rosales **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** _____

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: Heriberto Rosales **Date:** 10/31/2025 **Title:** _____

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____