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: It's Electric Incorporated

Project Title: Urban Resilience with Curbside Bidirectional Electric Vehicle Charging

Project Location – Specific: 1301 S 46th St

Project Location – City: Richmond 94804 **Project Location – County:** Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The purpose of this project is to design, fabricate, and validate a novel curbside vehicle-to-grid (V2G) electric vehicle (EV) charger that integrates with existing urban infrastructure and supports bidirectional capabilities between EVs and the grid. The project involves development of prototype EV chargers, benchtop testing, and demonstration in a laboratory environment at the UC Berkeley Richmond Field Station. This demonstration aims to advance equitable access to cutting-edge clean transportation technology in underserved communities, while also enhancing local grid resilience. The primary beneficiaries of the project include underserved communities that have lacked access to advanced EV infrastructure, as well as utilities and transportation stakeholders seeking to implement scalable, grid-supportive charging solutions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: It's Electric Incorporated

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, sec. 15303; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15311
- ☐ 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, sec. 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration 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). The project involves the installation of two new 7.6kW Level 2 AC EV chargers at UC Berkeley's Field Station in Richmond, CA, located within an area already designated for research and equipment testing. The scope of work includes trenching within previously paved and disturbed areas to connect the EV charger to an existing power source, and civil engineering activities necessary to support

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

permitting and installation. The charger will be installed for demonstration purposes, with no expansion of building footprint, and tested with vehicles as part of a 1.5-year demonstration phase. Permission for new circuiting and installation is being secured from the City of Richmond, Building Division. The project represents a minor alteration to existing facilities, with no increase in use beyond current activities at the Richmond Field Station.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15303 provides a categorical exemption from CEQA for the 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. The project involves the installation of two small curbside V2G chargers and associated cabling within an existing paved and previously disturbed area at UC Berkeley's Richmond Field Station. Trenching and ground disturbance are minimal and limited to utility connections. The equipment is comparable in scale to common public infrastructure such as parking meters or light poles. The installation is intended for a temporary demonstration phase and does not require any structural modifications or expansions of existing facilities.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15311 provides a categorical exemption from CEQA for the construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing institutional, commercial, or industrial facilities. The project includes the installation of two curbside V2G chargers at the Richmond Field Station, which is a fully developed institutional research site. These chargers are accessory to the existing use of the site as a testing and demonstration facility and will support ongoing research related to grid-interactive EV charging technologies. The equipment is installed within an existing paved area and will not alter the function or capacity of the facility.

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.

Public Agency
Contact Person: **Katelynn Dinius** **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-3468

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: Katelynn Dinius **Date:** 10/30/2025 **Title:** Air Resources 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.

It's Electric Incorporated