

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: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Project Title: Distributed Real-time Entanglement, Acoustic, and Mooring Structural Health Monitoring System (DREAMS)

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
1 Cyclotron Rd	Berkeley, CA 94720	Alameda, CA
1301 S 46th St	Richmond, CA 94804	Contra Costa, CA
35 Flagstaff Road	Orono, ME 04469	Penobscot, ME

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to fund the development, laboratory demonstration, and field demonstration of a mooring line integrated with a multimodal (acoustic, temperature, and strain) fiber optic monitoring system for real-time detection of marine debris entanglements, structural health anomalies, and underwater acoustic activities for floating offshore wind technology deployment off the Pacific coast. The monitoring system will be tested at University of California, Berkeley's Center for Smart Infrastructure long and shallow wave tank in Berkeley, California and an offshore 1/4-scale floating offshore wind platform in the Gulf of Maine.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

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, 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number. (Pub. Resources Code sec. 21080(b)(14); Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 14, sec 15277);
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

CEQA does not apply to any project or portion thereof located outside of California which will be subject to an environmental impact review pursuant to NEPA or pursuant to a law of that state requiring the preparation of a document containing essentially the same points of analysis as in an environmental impact statement prepared under NEPA. (Pub. Resources Code sec. 21080(b)(14); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15277.) Here, the onsite

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

demonstration aspect of this project involving the installation of the mooring system will occur in the Gulf of Maine and is subject to Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). Therefore, the demonstration aspect of this project is exempt from CEQA

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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project will involve environmental and structural health monitoring technologies research related to offshore wind mooring systems conducted at an existing testing facility in Berkeley. The project will result in no expansion of any existing or former uses of the facility. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and is exempt from CEQA.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15306 provides that projects that consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in serious or major disturbances to an environmental resource are exempt from CEQA. This project consists of environmental and structural health monitoring research related to offshore wind mooring systems and will consist of research design, experimentation and testing, and data collection in an existing laboratory environment that will have no impact on the environment. Therefore, the project falls within section 15306 and is exempt from CEQA.

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.

A project is exempt from CEQA if it is covered by the common sense exemption to CEQA 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. (14 Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15061(b)(3).) Here, the laboratory testing occurring at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will be occurring in a long wave tank that is currently in existence, that will be used with no modifications necessary to conduct the testing required by this project, and where it is currently being used for similar projects. As such, it is infeasible that the laboratory testing could have a significant effect on the environment as a matter of common sense and thus the project is exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Matthew Haro **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: Matthew Haro **Date:** 2/4/2026 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____