

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, 3rd Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.

Project Title: Future Proof: Scalable, Fire-Resistant Title 24 Opaque Envelope Retrofits for Energy-Efficient Homes

Project Location:

<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
5680 Moreno Blvd	Montclair 91763	San Bernardino
4361 Mission Blvd	Montclair 91763	San Bernardino
12995 6Th St	Yucaipa 92399	San Bernardino
26814 S Mooney Blvd	Visalia 93277	Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The goal of this project is to evaluate, deploy, and demonstrate a high-performance aerogel fiber mat insulation that is easy-to-install, environmentally friendly, non-flammable, and non-toxic. The insulation will be installed in low-income residential retrofits, aiming to reduce space conditioning loads, lower energy bills, and increase building resilience, occupant comfort, health and safety, while supporting California's broader decarbonization efforts

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, § 15301 ; 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:

This project fits within Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, sect. 15301, Existing Facilities, because it involves simple insulation retrofits and alterations of interior/exterior walls in existing residential structures to improve building performance. The retrofits involve no expansion of existing use.

Additionally, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, sect. 15306, Information Collection, applies because this project also involves basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

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

Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.

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.

Public Agency Contact Person:

Contact Person: Jackson Thach **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0818

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: *Jackson Thach* **Date:** 3-16-2026 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____