

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: Innovative Window Retrofits: Enhancing Thermal Efficiency and Infiltration Performance of Existing Windows

Project Location – Specific: 1 Cyclotron Rd

Project Location – City: Berkeley 94720 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will develop, test, and demonstrate advanced window retrofit solutions to improve thermal performance and reduce air infiltration in existing window frames. Development and laboratory testing of prototype designs will be done in a laboratory at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

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, 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:

Section 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 (CEQA). The activities funded by this agreement are exempt under Cal. Code Regs, tit.14, section 15301 because they involve development of energy efficiency retrofit solutions and advanced window prototypes developed within a laboratory setting in Berkeley, California. The project involves data

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

collection with no serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This project therefore falls under categorical exemption Section 15301.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sec. 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project will involve testing and collecting data on window materials when exposed to different temperature and moisture conditions in a laboratory setting. Accordingly, this activity will not have a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and falls under categorical exemption Section 15306.


Additionally, 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: Amir Ehyai **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0752

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:  **Date:** April 6, 2026 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____