

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: The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus

Project Title: Frameworks for Optimizing Routes from Gas to Electricity (FORGE): Residential

Project Location – Specific: 215 Sage Street

Project Location – City: Davis **Project Location – County:** Yolo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under grant agreement PIR-25-004, the California Energy Commission provides an \$800,000 grant to The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus for the project. This project will examine impediments to decarbonizing gas end uses in homes, with a focus on supply chain dynamics. Results will deliver a nuanced depiction of challenges and opportunities inherent in residential gas transitions and identify policy options to unlock electrification routes.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis Campus

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; 14 C.C.R. § 15306; 14 C.C.R. § 15262
- 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, 15301, Existing Facilities, provides an exemption from CEQA for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing. This project will conduct research, database searches, computer modeling, meetings (actual or virtual) within already existing laboratories, office buildings, and for case studies, residences. There will be negligible or no expansion of existing use in any of these structures. Therefore, the project falls within section 15301 and will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306, Information Collection, exempts from CEQA projects that 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. The proposed project activities fall within these categories. For these

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

reasons, the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt under section 15306.

While the grant may provide information to consumers, middle-market actors, and manufacturers about gas-to-electric equipment conversions, the grant does not include conversions. Therefore, the activities fall within Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies, which exempts from CEQA projects that are only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded.

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: Mithra Moezzi **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-6332

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: Mithra Moezzi **Date:** April 10, 2026 **Title:** Air Pollution Specialist

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____