

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: The Ortiz Group, LLC

Project Title: Paving the Way for California's Gas Transition

Project Location – Specific: 3429 Mt Diablo Ct., Ste 207

Project Location – City: Lafayette 94549 **Project Location – County:** Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will provide new empirical insights to accelerate the transition away from fossil gas use in California buildings by collection and analysis of data to identify persistent barriers at the building, supply chain, workforce, and consumer decision-making levels. The research will integrate physical readiness, supply dynamics, workforce pathways, and behavioral insights into actionable, equity-centered strategies that will directly support state decarbonization goals.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: The Ortiz Group, LLC

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, § 15306
- 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, § 15306 consists 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. This project is a computer-based and field-based stakeholder research project to identify high-leverage strategies to support fossil gas end-use conversion in California’s residential and commercial sectors.

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

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

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: Martine Schmidt-Poolman **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-6336

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: Martine Schmidt-Poolman **Date:** April 10, 2026 **Title:** Commission Agreement Manager

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____