



Award Number: PIR-10-048

Date: 8 / 19 / 2010

Note: The Energy Commission Project Managers Manual includes detailed instructions on how to complete this section, with examples of grants that are “Projects” and are not “Projects”. When the Project Manager is completing this section, if questions arise as to the appropriate answers to the questions below, please consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to review grants or loans for your division.

1. Is grant/loan considered a “Project” under CEQA? Yes (skip to question #2) No (continue with question #1)

Please complete the following: *[Public Resources Code (PRC) 21065 and 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 15378]:*

Explain why the grant/loan is **not** considered a “Project”? The grant/loan will not cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because grant/loan involves:

work conducted solely in an indoor setting to develop a web-based framework for conducting spatially explicit and fully documented cumulative impacts analyses of solar energy projects on the Mojave desert tortoise so that users can make better, science based decisions to promote conservation while facilitating permitting.

2. If grant/loan is considered a “Project” under CEQA: (choose either **IS** or **IS NOT**)

Grant/loan **IS** exempt:

Statutory Exemption: (List PRC and/or CCR section numbers) _____

Categorical Exemption: (List CCR section number) _____

Common Sense Exemption. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3))

Explain reason why the grant/loan is exempt under the above section:

Please attach draft Notice of Exemption (NOE). Consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to your division for instructions on how to complete the NOE.

Grant/loan **IS NOT** exempt. The Project Manager needs to consult with the Energy Commission attorney assigned to your division and the Siting Office regarding a possible initial study.