

Award Number: PON-10-501 /GEO-10-001Date: 5 / 5 / 2011

**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:

The objective of the proposed work is to create a baseline data base of surface deformations at current and planned geothermal plants in the Imperial Valley , using remote sensing data from satellites and advanced interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) techniques. The proposed project will reveal in greater detail surface deformation over a large area in the geothermal production zones, than what is possible with localized leveling surveys and the regional GPS network. This will assist geothermal developers in their resource assessments, planning and exploration activities by: (1) providing unprecedented tectonic deformation at prospective geothermal sites; (2) pointing possible hidden faults; and (3) supplying estimates of tectonic strain that may assist in identifying drilling targets, (4) If there are indications for surface deformation associated with the existing geothermal production, geothermal operators can be greatly aided in their mitigation efforts to reduce any possible environmental impact.

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.