

Award Number: GEO-10-004Date: 5 / 12 / 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:

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) 14 CCR 15301, 15306

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

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

Research and development activities at existing facilities, such as Simbol's offices, laboratories and manufacturing facility and the activities consist of basic data collection and research.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR) Section 15301 (EXISTING FACILITIES) [Categorical Exemption Class 1] and Section 15306 (INFORMATION COLLECTION) [Categorical Exemption Class 6], and none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemption Class 6 listed in 14 CCR 15300.2. (EXCEPTIONS) of the CEQA Guidelines are applicable to the proposed project.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. EXISTING FACILITIES states that “Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination.”

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.