



California Energy Commission
April 08, 2026 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for CALIFORNIA CLEAN ENERGY FUND DBA CALCEF
VENTURES

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available in this PDF packet as listed below:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. CEQA Memo

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: CALIFORNIA CLEAN ENERGY FUND DBA CALCEF VENTURES

RESOLUTION NO: [26-0408]-XX

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25710 et seq. the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (“CEC”) is authorized to establish and administer the Electric Program Investment Charge (“EPIC”) Program; and

WHEREAS, the CEC has recognized that California’s electricity ratepayers benefit from energy research, development and demonstration (“RD&D”) activities conducted by individuals, small businesses, academics and small non-profit institutions; and

WHEREAS, the CEC has created the California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development (“CalSEED”) Initiative within the EPIC Program to provide funding for the aforementioned public interest RD&D activities; and

WHEREAS, New Energy Nexus dba California Clean Energy Fund or CalCEF Ventures (“CalCEF”) is the administrator of the CalSEED Initiative under CEC Agreement Number 300-15-007 and is responsible for soliciting grant applications, recommending grant awards to the CEC, and managing approved grant projects; and

WHEREAS, CalCEF, in compliance with its duties under Agreement Number 300-15-007, in summer 2025 held a competitive solicitation, and as a result has proposed to CEC small grant projects for funding; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has reviewed the small grant projects CalCEF has proposed, and recommends the following 11 small grant projects for funding:

1. \$500,000 is being requested for the Electrochemical Direct Lithium Extraction for Domestic Brine Recovery project with EELI Technology, Inc., a project to develop an advanced lithium recovery technology; and
2. \$500,000 is being requested for the Unified Grid-Compliance Gateway for Distributed Energy Resources project with OpenRoad Technologies Inc., a project to build and pilot GridConnect, a technology that enables batteries, EV chargers, HVAC, and other distributed energy devices that currently lack connectivity to each other and to the grid to seamlessly participate in demand response and virtual power plant programs; and

3. \$500,000 is being requested for the Zero-Waste Materials Recovery from Nickel-Based Catalyst Wastes project with Manara Materials LLC, a project to develop a modular, co-located, zero-waste materials recovery and refining platform to recover high-purity, battery-grade materials from spent nickel-based catalyst wastes; and
4. \$500,000 is being requested for the Modular Sodium-Ion Battery Systems for Mission Critical Backup project with Navion Energy Inc., a project to develop a modular battery system that integrates cell-to-pack battery modules with sodium-ion cells, passive cooling, a battery management system, power electronics, and monitoring software into turnkey energy storage solutions for critical use cases, such as power backup and grid support; and
5. \$500,000 is being requested for the Scalable Pole-Mounted Utility-Controlled Energy Storage project with Three Rivers Power, LLC, a project to develop an innovative pole-mounted battery system designed to bring scalable, utility-controlled energy storage directly to the distribution grid; and
6. \$500,000 is being requested for the High-Temperature Thermal Storage for Industrial Decarbonization project with Calectra, Inc., a project to build a commercial-scale prototype of a power-to-heat thermal storage technology that makes high-temperature process heating cleaner, more efficient, and cheaper for heavy industry; and
7. \$500,000 is being requested for the Unibody Immersion-Cooled BESS for Safe Community Storage project with Wayside, a project to demonstrate a productized, appliance-like battery energy storage system with patent-pending unibody immersion cooling for the battery cells with a non-flammable, biodegradable fluid; and
8. \$500,000 is being requested for the Ruggedized Silicon Carbide Inverters for Heavy-Duty Mobility project with Cryodrives, LLC, a project to develop a ruggedized inverter and export-power solution for heavy-duty mobility applications, including trucks, trailers, and tractors; and
9. \$500,000 is being requested for the Drop-In Smart Microgrid Platform for Fleet Electrification project with Gridwave, a project to pilot a patent-pending, drop-in smart microgrid platform placed over parking areas that enables warehouse operators to electrify fleets without costly grid upgrades; and
10. \$500,000 is being requested for the Modular Containerized Green Ammonia Production System project with 17, Inc., a project to develop a modular, containerized ammonia production system that converts intermittent renewable energy, air, and water into ammonia on-site at solar and wind installations; and
11. \$500,000 is being requested for the Data-Driven SaaS Platform for Heavy-Duty Fleet Charging project with Amp Trans, a project to develop a data-driven software as a service (SaaS) platform designed to automatically manage fleet charging for medium- and heavy-duty trucks; and

WHEREAS, CEC staff has reviewed the projects and determined that each project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, as described in CEC staff's "Project Summaries and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Analysis For Proposed Prototype Small Grant Awards Under the California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development (CalSEED) Initiative" Memorandum ("Memorandum"), a document that is included in the backup materials to this Business Meeting item.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC adopts CEC staff's CEQA findings contained in the Memorandum for the 11 small grant projects; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC approves the 11 small grant projects for a total of \$5,500,000; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC directs CalCEF to execute grant agreements with the approved awardees pursuant to the requirements of Agreement Number 300-15-007.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of April 2026, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly approved and adopted by affirmative vote of the CEC at a meeting held on April 8, 2026.

Kim Todd
Secretariat

M e m o r a n d u m

To:

Chair David Hochschild
Vice-Chair Siva Gunda
Commissioner Noemí Gallardo
Commissioner Nancy Skinner
Commissioner Andrew McAllister

Date: March 24, 2026

From:

Josh Croft
Electric Generation System Specialist I

Telephone: (925) 452-7638

Subject: PROJECT SUMMARIES AND CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED PROTOTYPE SMALL GRANT AWARDS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT (CALSEED) INITIATIVE

New Energy Nexus dba California Clean Energy Fund or CalCEF Ventures (CalCEF) is the administrator of the Energy Commission's CalSEED Initiative under Agreement No. 300-15-007. The CalSEED Initiative awards small grants in the form of "Concept Awards" or "Prototype Awards" and provides access to business and technical services for entrepreneurs seeking to develop a technical feasibility case for their technologies.

In August 2025, CalCEF initiated the Series B Business Plan Competition to determine which eligible CalSEED Concept Awardees have the greatest commercial potential to merit Prototype Award funding. Prototype Awards provide follow-on funding of \$500,000 to the entrepreneurs and researchers whose energy innovations show significant commercial promise.

The Business Plan Competition was coordinated with Cleantech Open (CTO). Over the summer of 2025, CalSEED Concept Awardees participated in CTO's Western Region Accelerator, where they received tools and insights to develop an 8 to 10-page Business Plan. This Business Plan was the basis of the Business Plan Competition application package. CalSEED Concept Awardees also met with mentors with subject matter expertise in their individual technology areas and attended pitch practice clinics, gaining valuable feedback on their pitch presentations.

CalSEED Concept Awardees can select when to compete for a Prototype Award based on their progress. In 2025, a total of 22 companies competed in the Business Plan Competition, with 17 from CalSEED Cohort 7 (2024) and 5 companies from Cohort 6 (2023). Each company submitted a business plan and presented a live pitch. The panel of judges was made up of 17 members of the CalSEED Review Committee, representing expertise in start-up companies, industry-specific commercialization, and social and environmental impacts. As a result of this competition, 11 projects are being proposed for \$500,000 in "Prototype Award" grant funding at the April 8, 2026 Energy Commission Business Meeting.

I am an Energy Generation Systems Specialist of the Technology to Market unit in the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Branch of the Energy Research and Development Division of the California Energy Commission. I have reviewed the project information and CEQA compliance forms submitted by each applicant. Below are project summaries and CEQA analysis for each proposed project:

1. Project Title: Electrochemical Direct Lithium Extraction for Domestic Brine Recovery

Applicant: EELI Technology, Inc.

Subcontractors and Vendors: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop an electrochemical hardware system and process for the selective recovery of lithium from various liquid brine feedstocks, including geothermal and oilfield brines. This innovative technology aims to achieve over 90% lithium recovery efficiency and a 98% reduction in freshwater use compared to conventional methods while producing zero direct carbon emissions. During the Prototype Award, EELI will design and construct a modular, skid-mounted pilot system to be operated within its existing indoor R&D facility. Project activities include hardware fabrication, pilot-scale testing, and analytical characterization. While hardware operations will occur at EELI's San Leandro facility, LBNL will be utilized strictly for the analytical characterization of small, sealed liquid samples.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection" , 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to data collection, research, and experimental activities that involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the sites and will not result in a major disturbance to an environmental resource. All work will be conducted within existing indoor laboratory facilities with no requirement for construction, trenching, or structural modifications. The pilot system is a self-contained, movable skid (approximately 20 ft. x 8 ft.) that operates using standard electrical outlets and produces no emissions, odors, or hazardous discharges. Brine feedstocks and effluents are managed in sealed containers, and all waste is collected for off-site disposal, ensuring no discharge enters the surrounding environment. Furthermore, activities at LBNL are restricted to routine laboratory analysis of small samples, involving no hardware installation or operational activity.

2. Project Title: Unified Grid-Compliance Gateway for Distributed Energy Resources

Applicant: OpenRoad Technologies Inc.

Subcontractors and Vendors: California Mobility Center

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop a low-cost universal software gateway that integrates demand-response signals from utilities with various energy-consuming and energy-storage assets, such as batteries and electric vehicles (EVs), using the OpenADR API standard. This technology replaces proprietary legacy systems with an open software standard

for critical two-way communication between utilities and energy assets. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, OpenRoad Technologies Inc. will design and develop the "gateway" hardware/software device—a small electronic unit approximately the size of a hardcover book. The project involves connecting the prototype to existing retail products, specifically a home battery and an EV charger, to validate interconnection with test signals.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection", 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities", 14 CCR 15061 (b)(3) "Common Sense Exemption"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to the indoor design, testing, and demonstration of a small prototype electronic communications device (approximately the size of a hardcover book) within an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the site. The work involves electronic component assembly and software validation that will not result in any serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The physical setup requires only the connection of a small prototype device to existing third-party retail products and does not require any physical construction, trenching, building modifications, or changes to land. Furthermore, the project does not involve the use of hazardous materials or the generation of excessive noise or odors.

3. Project Title: Zero-Waste Materials Recovery from Nickel-Based Catalyst Wastes

Applicant: Manara Materials LLC.

Subcontractors and Vendors: SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory; Eurofins EAG Materials Science; Kern Community College District

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to further develop a modular, zero-waste platform that recovers high-purity, battery-grade materials (such as nickel, cobalt, and aluminum sulfates) from spent chemical industry catalyst waste using a modified green solvent extraction method. This innovation converts hazardous industrial waste into a domestic supply chain for battery-ready materials, reducing reliance on conventional mining. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, Manara Materials will strategically increase recovered material purity to 99.5%, benchmark electrochemical performance by synthesizing cathode and anode active materials for battery testing, and finalize process engineering for a future mobile pilot unit.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection", 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to research, material qualification, and process engineering within existing laboratory facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The work is confined to benchtop chemistry at ambient temperatures using a closed-loop, reusable solvent that generates no wastewater or solid-waste discharges. Small quantities of spent catalyst samples (<10 kg) will be handled following established hazardous waste protocols, and any trace residues will be containerized and managed through existing hazardous-waste programs. All laboratory work will be conducted indoors. The project involves no construction,

ground disturbance, or field deployment, and noise is limited to normal indoor laboratory equipment levels. Accordingly, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment.

4. Project Title: Modular Sodium-Ion Battery Systems for Mission Critical Backup

Applicant: Navion Energy Inc.

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop sodium-ion battery modules with integrated Battery Management Systems for high-performance data center backup applications. Navion Energy's innovation includes proprietary deep discharge recovery from 0% state of charge and charging speeds five times faster than lead-acid systems, while maintaining cost-competitiveness and a cycle life exceeding 5,000 cycles. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, Navion will design and fabricate three power configurations (3kW, 5.5kW, and 12kW) in production-ready 48V DC modules. Validation activities involve laboratory testing for energy density, power conversion efficiency (targeting >95%), and durability through accelerated cycle testing and temperature cycling. The project includes controlled field testing in operational data center environments to demonstrate backup performance and thermal management within existing rack-mounted infrastructure.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection", 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because it will be conducted entirely within existing fabrication and testing facilities and involves no significant construction, land alterations, or outdoor operations. The activities are limited to routine fabrication and laboratory testing intended to collect data and validate technical specifications, which will not result in a serious disturbance to any environmental resource. Any noise or minimal odors generated during fabrication and integration will be contained within the facility and managed via existing ventilation systems. The disposal of routine fabrication waste, including electronic components and battery cells, will adhere to established environmental and safety protocols and regulatory standards within the facility. The project will result in negligible or no expansion of the existing or former use of the sites.

5. Project Title: Scalable Pole-Mounted Utility-Controlled Energy Storage

Applicant: Three Rivers Power, LLC.

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop the POLYi® AC-Battery, a compact, pole-mounted energy storage system designed for utility-grade storage at the grid edge. The technology's innovation is a breakthrough power electronics integration that significantly reduces system size and complexity, allowing for installation on existing utility poles without requiring land acquisition or major construction. During the CalSEED Prototype Award project period, Three Rivers Power will finalize the certification pathway with a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory, incorporate these requirements into the final design, and develop a pilot deployment plan in collaboration with a California utility provider. Physical activities are limited to project management, utility engagement, and laboratory-based product certification testing.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 “Information Collection”, 14 CCR 15301 “Existing Facilities”

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are restricted to laboratory-based research, product design, and certification testing that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The work involves indoor prototyping and the use of standard electronic testing equipment at existing facilities that will result in negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the sites. The project involves no construction, land disturbance, structural modifications, or land use changes. No excessive noise, vibration, or odors will be generated. Handling of materials is limited to small quantities of standard electronic components and battery cells consistent with normal R&D practices, with disposal managed through certified e-waste and recycling channels. As all activities are confined to existing indoor environments with no emissions or physical changes to the site, the project has no potential for significant environmental impact.

6. Project Title: High-Temperature Thermal Storage for Industrial Decarbonization

Applicant: Calectra, Inc.

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop and test a 100 kWh prototype high-temperature thermal storage system designed to deliver zero-carbon heat for industrial processes like steel, cement, and glass production. Calectra’s technology utilizes a novel, low-cost, and non-toxic thermal storage material that remains stable in air up to 1800°C. The technology consists of approximately 0.2~m³ of storage medium, heated electrically and encased in refractory insulation within a metal shell. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, the team will design, build, and test the system in a small shipping container to facilitate transportation and evaluate industrial integration feasibility.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 “Information Collection”, 14 CCR 15301 “Existing Facilities”, 14 CCR 15311 “Accessory Structures”

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to laboratory research, data collection, and experimental testing that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The work will be performed within an existing permitted shared laboratory facility (Port Labs) that is equipped for lab-scale experiments. The 100 kWh prototype is a temporary, mobile structure housed in a small shipping container, requiring no permanent construction, trenching, or facility modifications. While testing may generate small quantities of carbon dioxide (~40 g/hr) and carbon monoxide (~5 g/hr), these emissions will be diluted using a duct fan and released into a well-ventilated space, ensuring levels remain significantly below BAAQMD significance thresholds. Traffic increases at the site will be negligible, limited to a single employee commute and temporary equipment delivery.

7. Project Title: Unibody Immersion-Cooled BESS for Safe Community Storage

Applicant: Wayside

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to fabricate and evaluate the performance of the Whitney-434, a compact Battery Energy Storage System utilizing a proprietary immersion-cooled "unibody architecture". This design submerges battery cells in a non-conductive, fire-suppressing liquid, eliminating the need for complex air conditioning and creating a silent, compact, and fire-safe system. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, Wayside will build full-scale prototype units—self-contained, weather-proof cabinets roughly the size of a large refrigerator—and conduct rigorous testing and data collection at one pilot site to validate all-climate performance and lifecycle economics.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities", 14 CCR 15303 "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures", 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because it involves the installation of small, new equipment at existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the sites. The physical activities are limited to placing a pre-fabricated, self-contained energy storage appliance (approximately 50 sq. ft.) on previously disturbed land and collecting experimental data, which does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. A small concrete pad will be poured for the appliance and the appliance will be connected to existing electrical infrastructure. The system operates as a sealed, passive appliance with zero emissions and negligible operational noise. The dielectric coolant used is biodegradable and non-toxic, and since the system is sealed, no fluid handling occurs on-site. Local permitting for physical installation is handled through standard building and electrical permits from the local Authority Having Jurisdiction.

8. Project Title: Ruggedized Silicon Carbide Inverters for Heavy-Duty Mobility

Applicant: Cryodrives, LLC

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop ruggedized Heavy-Duty Export Power (HD-POW) and Heavy-Duty Variable Frequency Drive (HD-VFD) inverter systems designed to provide clean, efficient AC power for trucks, trailers, and tractors. These innovations utilize Silicon-Carbide technology and integrated power filtering to achieve superior efficiency and reduced harmonic distortion in heavy mobility applications. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, Cryodrives will design, assemble, and test six inverter prototypes within its existing electronics laboratory in Sutter County. Physical activities include the design and assembly of printed circuit boards, functional debugging using electronic software tools, and the integration of subassemblies into machined enclosures. Performance validation will involve powering an AC induction motor and utilizing a 75hp water pump on a stand-alone test bench skid to characterize efficiency under load.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 "Information Collection", 14 CCR 15301 "Existing Facilities"

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to laboratory research, prototype testing, and data collection within an existing facility and involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the site. The work consists of a design-build-test cycle for electronics subassemblies and does not require

new construction, trenching, or land disturbance. The prototype testing is conducted on stand-alone test benches and skid-mounted pump loads, which are temporary and do not result in permanent site modifications or alterations of land use. The project uses standard electronic components, generates no excessive noise, odors, or hazardous emissions, and adheres to certified e-waste recycling channels for material disposal. Accordingly, the project has no potential for significant environmental impact.

9. Project Title: Drop-In Smart Microgrid Platform for Fleet Electrification

Applicant: Gridwave

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to further develop The Grove™, a foundationless and relocatable smart microgrid platform that enables warehouse operators to electrify fleets without expensive grid upgrades or upfront capital. The platform integrates modular solar canopies, AI-powered energy management (GEMS), and upcycled EV battery storage. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, Gridwave will develop and test GEMS software agents to validate compliance with UL 3141 standards and other performance metrics. The project also involves the structural and electrical design of hardware components, including a wind-shedding canopy and an EV charging load-limiting switch.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 “Information Collection”, 14 CCR 15301 “Existing Facilities”, 14 CCR 15061 (b)(3) “Common Sense Exemption”

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to paper studies, software design, modeling, quality control, and engineering analysis that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. All work will be performed within an existing office facility and involves non-invasive tasks such as simulation, modeling, and data testing. The project does not involve construction, land disturbance, or the modification of any facility. Furthermore, the project will not generate noise, odors, or hazardous waste, and there will be no increase in traffic at the project site. As the funded activities are restricted to design and testing without physical environmental changes, there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

10. Project Title: Modular Containerized Green Ammonia Production System

Applicant: 17, Inc.

Subcontractors and Vendors: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop small-scale, modular ammonia production (Power-To-X) units designed for onsite deployment at solar and wind plants. This technology enables the conversion of excess intermittent clean energy into a transportable zero-carbon commodity without the need for large batteries or extensive hydrogen storage. Unlike conventional synthesis, this novel gas catalytic process allows for autonomous, distributed operation that can be cycled to match diurnal energy production. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, 17, Inc. will partner with LBNL to build a benchtop prototype utilizing small (<1 L) reactors in existing laboratory facilities.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 “Information Collection”, 14 CCR 15301 “Existing Facilities”

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to basic data collection and research within existing laboratory facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the sites. The experimental work is confined to small-scale benchtop reactors at LBNL, following established laboratory standard operating procedures for processes and disposals. No construction, land modifications, or buildings will be affected, and no excessive noise will be generated. Ammonia will only be produced in trace concentrations (<100 g), which is significantly below EPA reporting requirements. Additionally, all activities at the applicant's headquarters in Mountain View are restricted to paper studies and conceptual engineering.

11. Project Title: Data-Driven SaaS Platform for Heavy-Duty Fleet Charging

Applicant: AmpTrans

Subcontractors and Vendors: TBD

Project Summary: The goal of this project is to develop CHARGE-OPT, an integrated planning platform designed to connect fleets, charging developers, and utilities to accelerate the adoption of clean transportation. Unlike siloed software tools, CHARGE-OPT combines fleet, charging, and grid planning into a single collaborative ecosystem to prevent costly stranded assets. During the CalSEED Prototype Award, AmpTrans will complete and validate its ChargePlan and GridPlan software modules, integrate them with an existing FleetPlan module, and conduct pilot demonstrations with 3-5 California stakeholders.

CEQA Exemption Status: 14 CCR 15306 “Information Collection”, 14 CCR 15301 “Existing Facilities”, 14 CCR 15061 (b)(3) “Common Sense Exemption”

Reason Why Project is Exempt*: This project is exempt under CEQA because project activities are limited to software design, coding, simulation, and data analysis that will not cause any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment. All project work is office- or cloud-based, requiring only standard computing resources and involving no construction, land disturbance, or installation of physical equipment. The activities will not generate hazardous materials, waste, noise, odors, or increased traffic. As the project is restricted to information collection and the use of existing office facilities for software development without environmental disturbance, there is no possibility that the project will result in a significant effect on the environment.

*Applicable to all 11 projects: The project 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 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.