Notice of Exemption

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, California 95814

FROM: California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Project Title: Adoption of revisions to the Overall Program Guidebook for the Renewable Energy Program

Project Location: 1516 9th Street, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California 95814

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of this activity is to revise guidelines previously adopted by the California Energy Commission to govern the general administration of its Renewable Energy Program ("Program") and the Program elements. These guidelines are set forth in the Overall Program Guidebook for the Renewable Energy Program and were revised to address changes in law as a result of Senate Bill X1-2 (2011), Assembly Bill 1954 (2010), and Assembly Bill 920 (2009) and decisions of the California Public Utilities Commission, and to clarify the guidelines based on lessons learned and stakeholder input. The California Energy Commission and participants of the Renewable Energy Program and the Program elements, including operators and developers of eligible renewable energy resources and electric utilities, benefit from the adoption of revisions to these guidelines.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Energy Commission

Exempt Status: (Check One)

Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: ______
Statutory Exemption. State code number: ______
X Other: Activity is not a "project" under Sec. 15378(b)(2) and (4).

Reasons why project is exempt: Activity is not a project under Sec. 15378(b)(2) and (4), because it pertains to the continuation of administrative and maintenance activities related to general policy and procedure making and the creation of governmental funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. In addition, elements of the guidelines are exempt under Sec. 15308, in that these guidelines can be seen as action by a regulatory agency authorized by the state to protect the environment.

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Date: 5-30-12 Title: Staff Counsel IV