

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-48
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Taylor Energy

Project Title: Renewable Syngas Methanation

Project Location – Specific: 1084 Columbia Ave

Project Location – City: Riverside 92507

Project Location – County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Taylor Energy's Pilot-Scale Biomass Gasification Test-Facility is located at the University of California Riverside. This test facility will be used to develop pilot-scale testing of an autothermal-gasification process designed to convert forest-biomass into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas. The target feed-rate for pilot-scale testing is 5-ton/day feeding biomass recovered from forest waste. This project will result in ratepayer benefits that include direct cost savings, economic development in rural areas, lower environmental impacts state-wide, and increased energy security for all ratepayers.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Taylor Energy

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15301
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Section 15301 Existing Facilities provides an exemption for the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing. This project will involve operation and minor alternations to an existing biomass gasifier system at the University of California Riverside Center for Environmental Research & Technology. The facility already researches the production of biomass-derived fuel for electric generation, therefore there will be negligible to no expansion of the existing use of the facility for testing of an autothermal-gasification process designed to convert forest-biomass into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas. The research activities do not require any trenching or construction work. The materials being used are chemically inert, not hazardous to human health, and do not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Abolghasem Edalati Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-327-1499

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: *A. Edalati* Date: 5/29/19 Title: _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: MAY 30 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE