

Notice of Exemption**Form D**

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: Spark Thermionics, Inc.

Project Title: Production Scale-Up of Thermionic Energy Harvesters

Project Location – Specific: 2342 Shattuck Avenue #525 + TBD

Project Location – City: Berkeley + TBD **Project Location – County:** Alameda County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will develop capabilities for low-rate initial production (LRIP) of Spark's prototype thermionic energy harvesters. These devices can dramatically increase concentrated solar power (CSP) plant efficiency and simultaneously increase the cost effectiveness of CSP. They will thereby increase CSP capacity development projects in California and enable progress towards the state's ambitious renewable energy targets. Key activities of this project consist of cost modeling at the LRIP stage, scale-up of device component manufacturing and device assembly, and screening and testing of these components and devices.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Spark Thermionics, Inc.

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:

For Cal. Code Regs. (CCR), Title 14, Section 15301: This project will involve manufacturing and product testing to be performed at existing laboratory and manufacturing facilities. This project intends to install small-scaled equipment into an existing facility and will involve operation, maintenance, and minor alterations to the facility. Work under this project will result in negligible or no expansion of the existing use. This project will result in no significant impact to the environment and is exempt pursuant to CCR, 14 § 15301.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Eleanor Oliver

Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-445-5377

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: 

Date: 7.24.19

Title: ENERGY ANALYST

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: JUL 24 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE