

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: DNV GL USA, Inc.

Project Title: Mindful Decommissioning: A Data-Driven Tool for Prioritizing Strategic Gas Asset Decommissioning

Project Location – Specific: 155 Grand Ave Ste 500

Project Location – City: Oakland 94612 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Under agreement PIR-22-002, the CEC will provide a \$1,499,275 grant to DNV GL, USA. The purpose of this project is the development of a data-driven, actionable tool that will provide state agencies, local governments, investor-owned utilities, and other stakeholders with valuable information for assessing the technical, social and economic feasibility of decommissioning specific segments of the gas system. The Recipient will work with stakeholders to further understand the underlying variables and data types needed to answer the challenges facing decision makers currently. The Recipient will quantify these heterogeneous factors; develop a scalable, rational approach to assessing and prioritizing sites to mindfully guide gas decommissioning; and implement this approach in a manner that protects sensitive and confidential data while also producing high-level insights that can be shared publicly. The beneficiaries include California IOU ratepayers through improved understanding for state agencies, investor-owned utilities, municipalities and community stakeholders.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: DNV GL USA, 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, § 15306 and under Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15262
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 Section 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project consists of data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities in existing offices. For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and is exempt under Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, Section 15306,

In addition, this contract involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that appropriate agencies boards, or commissions have not approved, adopted, or funded. Environmental factors of this research have been considered. Therefore, the project is exempt from Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, Section 15262.

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 sites (offices) are 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.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Martine Schmidt-Poolman **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0808

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: July 14, 2022 **Title:** EGSS-I

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____