

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): Imperial County Planning &
Development Services Department
801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243

County Clerk
County of: IMPERIAL

(Address)

Project Title: CALENERGY, REGION 1-2020 LITHIUM PILOT TEST

Project Applicant: CALENERGY REGION 1 OPERATING CORPORATION

Project Location - Specific:
6922 CRUMMER ROAD, CALIPATRIA, CA

Project Location - City: CALIPATRIA Project Location - County: IMPERIAL

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

CALENERGY proposes to conduct pilot test of a lithium extraction unit at their facility on a small scale to determine whether to install a commercially viable full-scale unit. The test will determine the chemical feed-rates and operating conditions needed to produce lithium from 100 gallons per minute of spent geothermal brine. Updates as of October 2020 are the following: (1) project end date from December 2023 to April 2024; (2) change of ion-exchange media vendor from Lilac to AquaMin; (3) update to pre-treatment process which includes use of sodium hydroxide instead of calcium hydroxide and the use of 36% hydrochloric acid (same as the acid being used in the existing geothermal plant) with corresponding tank and air control system instead of dilute acid; (4) site location moved slightly to the east of original location; and (5) update to the environmental impact evaluation within the application for the Lithium Recovery Program as a result of the update to the pretreatment process.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: IMPERIAL COUNTY PLANNING & DEV. SERVICES

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Michael Abraham

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: 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

FILE # 13-2021-002
IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JAN 08 2021

Chuck Storey, County Clerk
By: VC Deputy

Reasons why project is exempt:

The test pilot consists of taking brine and processing for the extraction of lithium. This test will not affect any functions of the geothermal plant on site. Also the project will consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management and resource evaluation activities, which should not result in major disturbance to environmental resources.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Patricia Valenzuela Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 442-265-1749

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: [Signature] Date: 01/08/2021 Title: AICP, Asst. Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

POSTED

JAN 08 2021

**IMPERIAL COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
CALIFORNIA**