PMC-EF2a
(2.04.02)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
EERE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CENTER
NEPA DETERMINATION

RECIPIENT: University of California San Diego **STATE:** CA

PROJECT TITLE : San Diego Center for Algae Biotechnology

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
	EE0003142	GFO-10-582	EE3142

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:
Description:

B3.6 Siting, construction (or modification), operation, and decommissioning of facilities for indoor bench-scale research projects and conventional laboratory operations (for example, preparation of chemical standards and sample analysis); small-scale research and development projects; and small-scale pilot projects (generally less than two years) conducted to verify a concept before demonstration actions. Construction (or modification) will be within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible).

Rational for determination:

Federal and cost share funds will be used for 3 tasks. The first task will involve renovating the Bonner Hall Algal Culture Growth Facility. All remodeling will be done in a current facility on the University's campus. Some internal walls will be removed and new ones built to create an enclosed algal growth room and a separate algal characterization laboratory. Also, new waterproof floors, a heap-filter system, and new outlets will be added. The second task will running the algal bioreactors, harvesting the algae, and conducting molecular and biochemical analysis. The final task will be project management and reporting. All work will be conducted on the University of California, San Diego's campus. The University follows protocols put in place by the UCSD Environmental Health and Safety office. All permits required for the project are in place. GMOs will be used and will be handled in keeping with UCSD Biohazardous Use Authorization certifications.

All GMO algae will only be grown under complete bio-containment within locked laboratory spaces. All transgenic organisms, plant or animal, must have a biohazard use authorization (BUA) on file with the University that details the organism, protocols, vectors, genes, growth conditions, harvesting and storage. This authorization is approved by the Institutional BioSafety Committee. This process and committee are standard for all Universities under NIH guidelines which have been adopted for all transgenic plant and algae work.

The proposed project will not use toxic substances, no plant or animal viral elements will be used in the GMO algae and all work with GMO algae will be in full containment; therefore, both EPA and USDA regulations allow the use of the GMO algae.

The proposed project is consistent with activities outlined in B3.6 and has been determined to be categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION
Note to Specialist :

None Given.

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature: _____ Date: 8/30/2010