

## Supporting Information

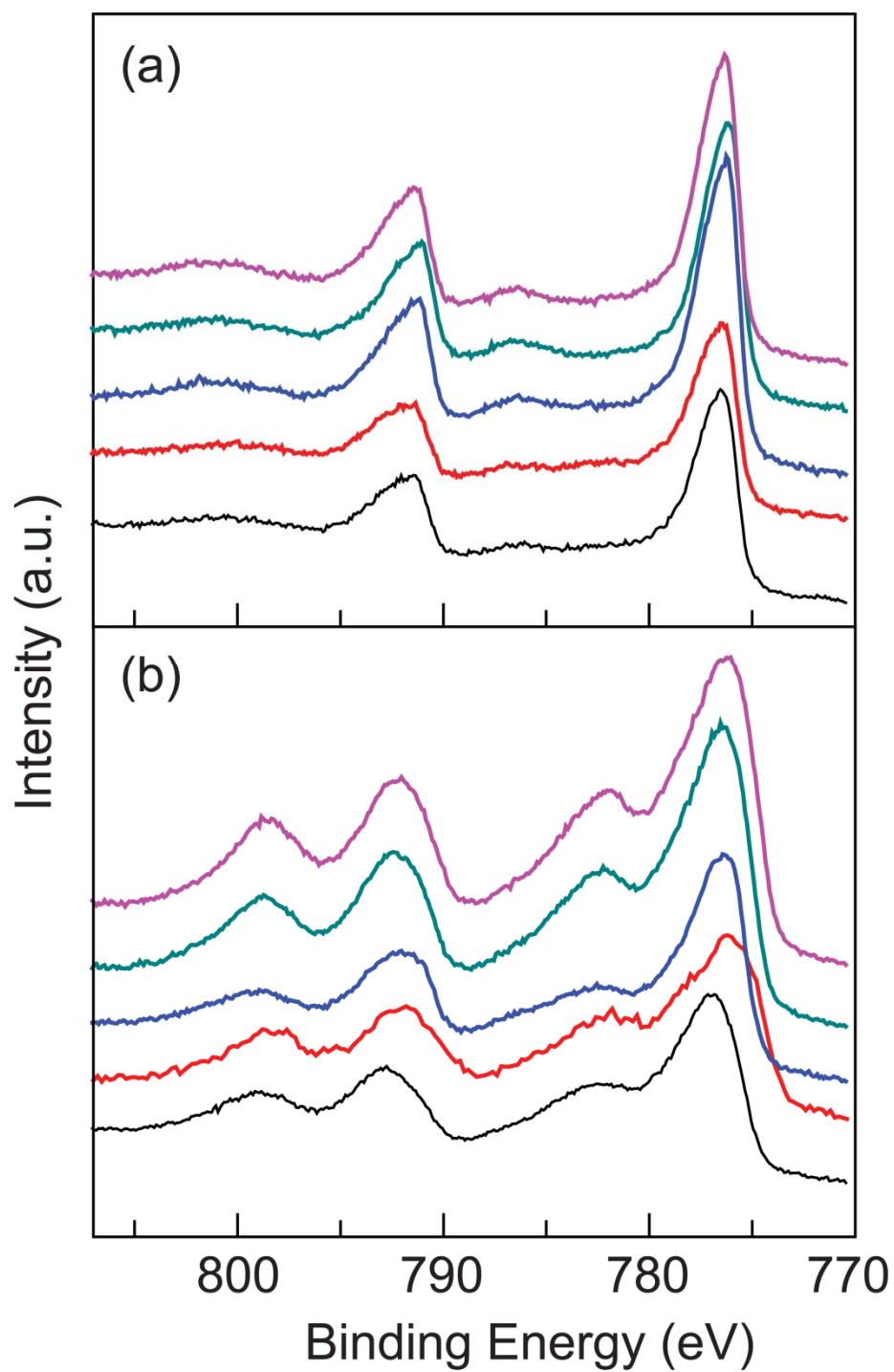
### **Spectroscopic Studies of Nanoparticulate Thin Films of Cobalt-Based Oxygen Evolution Catalyst**

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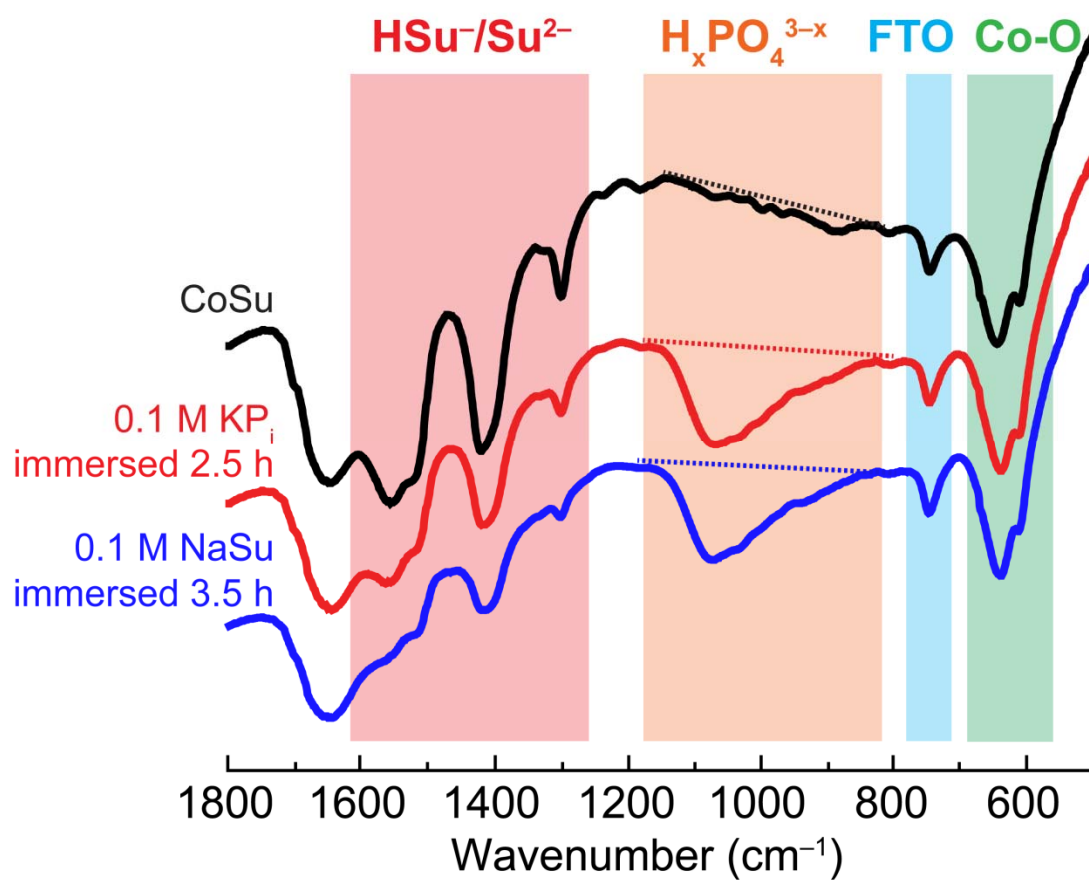
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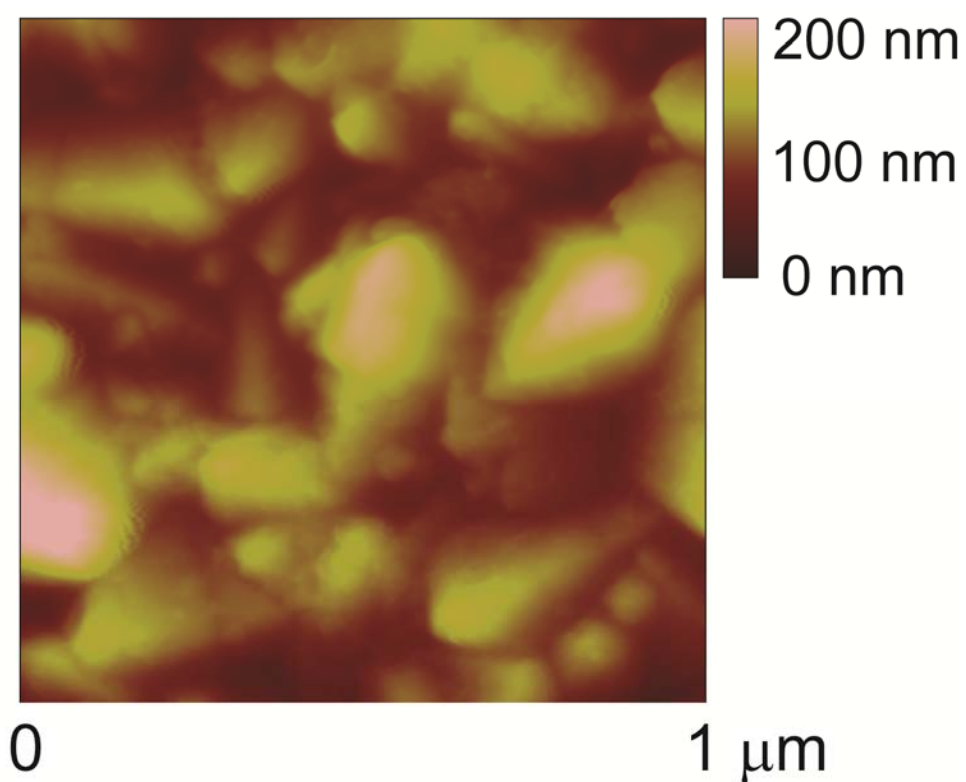
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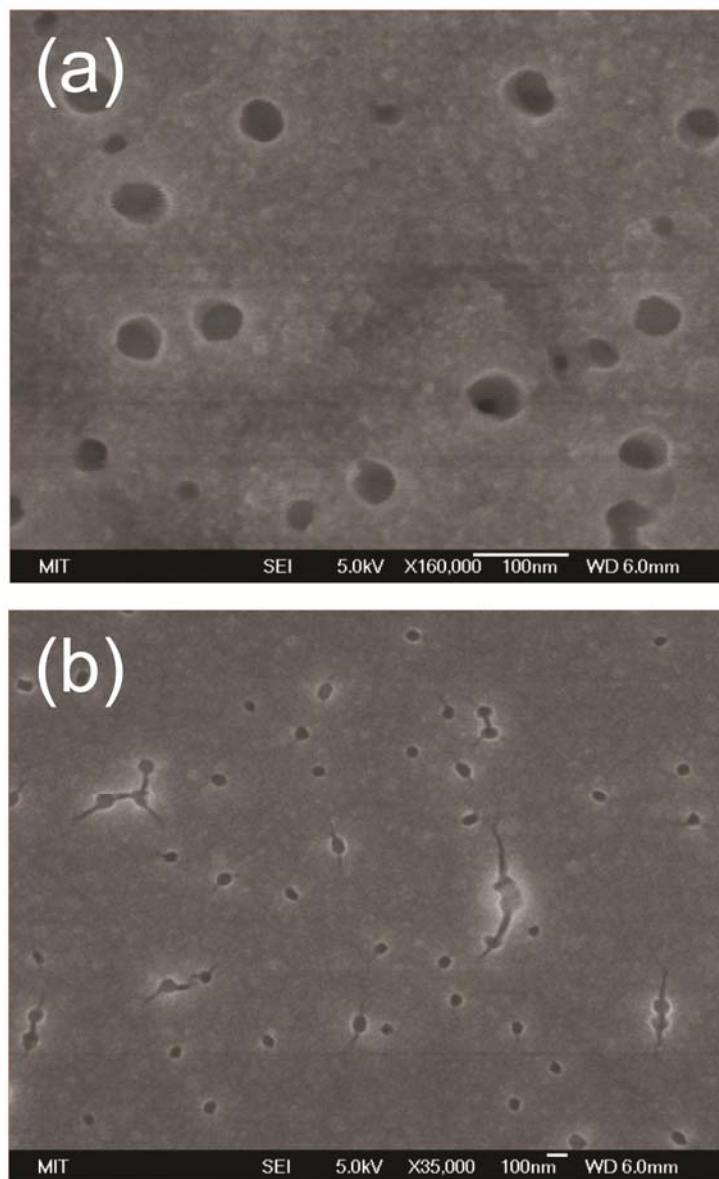
**Figure S1.** Co  $2p_{3/2}$  XPS spectra of various Co-X films (80 mC/cm<sup>2</sup>) from different proton-accepting electrolytic solution (a) as prepared and (b) after 1 min of etching to eliminate surface carbon contamination: Co-P<sub>i</sub> (—); Co-B<sub>i</sub> (—); Co-Ac (—); Co-Pr (—); and Co-Su(—).



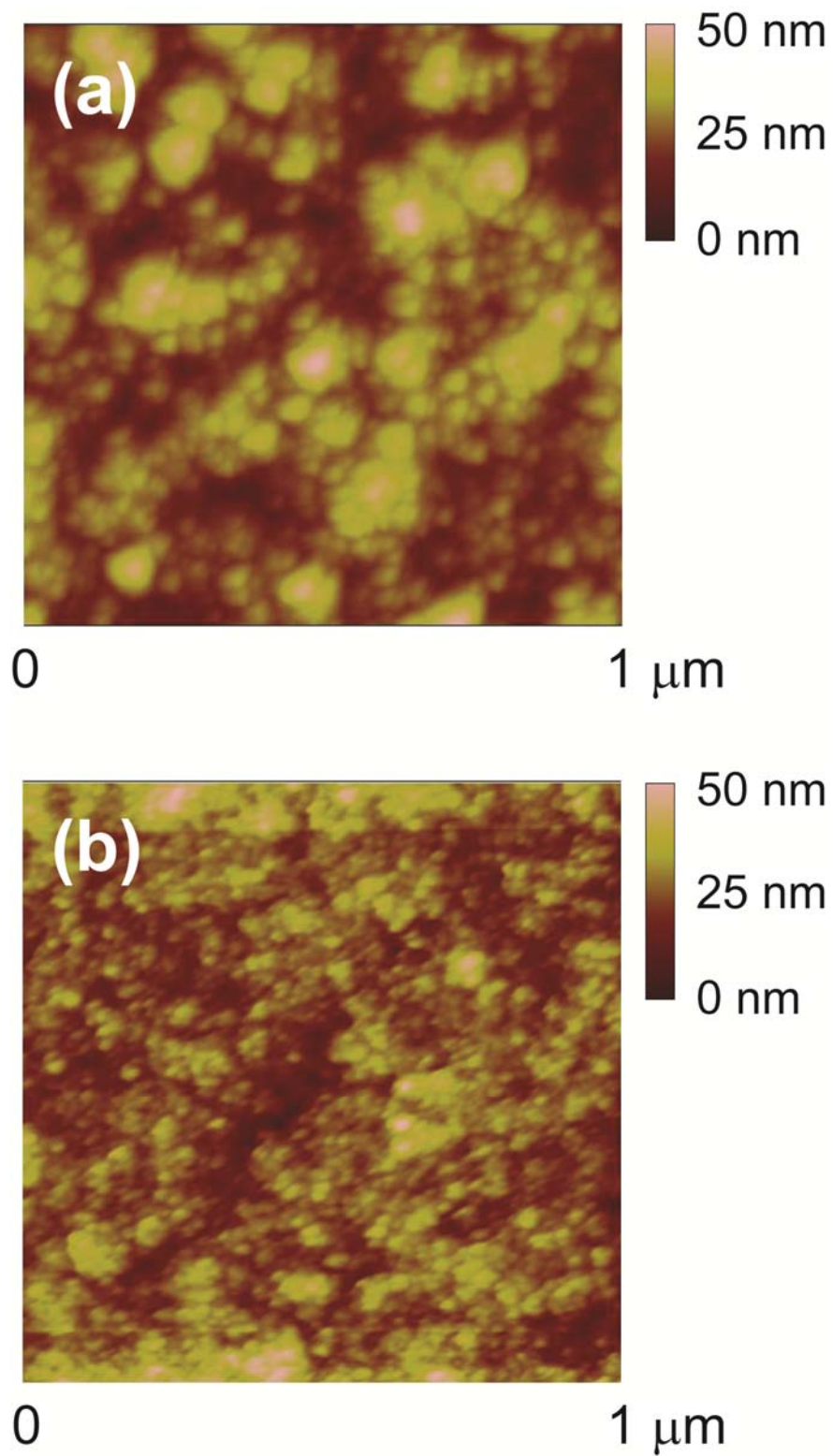
**Figure S2.** IR Spectra of Co-Su thin film  $80 \text{ mC/cm}^2$  (—), immersed in 0.1 M  $\text{KP}_i$  pH 7 for 2.5 h (—) and re-immersed in 0.1 M NaSu, pH 8 solution for 3.5 h (—).



**Figure S3.** AFM image of FTO electrode with 400 nm crystalline domain and 200 nm surface roughness.



**Figure S4.** Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) images of Co-P<sub>i</sub> thin films (5 mC/cm<sup>2</sup>) on a (a) Au electrode and (b) Pt electrode.



**Figure S5.** AFM images of Co-Pi thin films on ( $5 \text{ mC/cm}^2$ ) on a (a) Au electrode and (b) Pt electrode.