

**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:** The Regents of the University of California, Davis-Western Cooling Efficiency Center

**Project Title:** Affordable Near- and Medium-Term Solutions for Integration of Low GWP Heat Pumps in Residential Buildings

**Project Location:**

| <u>Address</u>       | <u>City</u>   | <u>County</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 215 Sage St Ste 100  | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 1235 Alice St        | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 3328 Biscayne Bay Pl | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 3320 Biscayne Bay Pl | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 2761 Feather Pl      | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 2763 Feather Pl      | Davis 95616   | Yolo          |
| 22605 Grand St       | Hayward 94541 | Alameda       |

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this project is to develop and demonstrate affordable near-term and medium-term solutions for integration of lower cost, low- and ultra-low global warming potential heat pumps. The project will develop and test the performance of the heat pump in the laboratory to develop performance maps of the system. The project will install the next generation heat pumps in 10 homes over two California climate zones and evaluate the performance relative to the baseline.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Regents of the University of California, Davis-Western Cooling Efficiency Center

**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 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The activities would include developing high efficiency low global warming potential heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) heat pumps to be tested in an existing laboratory and installed or used in existing buildings,

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

especially, residential buildings. The equipment and materials would include, but may not be limited to, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units; paint; building energy controls (e.g., heating, cooling, lighting); and evaluation, measurement, and verification equipment (e.g., power meters, flow meters, sensors, and data loggers). The physical work would include installing this equipment. The project would not involve adding residential units or substantially enlarging buildings.


The above activities fall under two categorical exemptions. First, the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, and minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use, falls under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301. Second, the project includes data collection and analysis to be conducted in residential buildings and in existing laboratories of the grant recipient team. California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed project's data analysis activities will have no significant effect on the environment and fall within the categorical exemption of section 15306.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Felix Villanueva **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-327-2206

**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:** 6-22-20 **Title:** Utility Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Date received for filing at OPR:** Jun 23 2020

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**