



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3644, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

FROM: The Board of Trustees of the California State University
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, California 90802-4210

Project Title: California State University, Fresno – Central Utility Plant Modernization Project (Project)

Project Location-Specific:

Address: CSU Fresno campus, 5241 N Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93740

Cross Streets: E. Barstow Avenue and E. San Ramon Avenue

Latitude/Longitude: 36.815010, -119.748072

Project Location-City: Fresno **Project Location-County:** Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) would refurbish and modernize the existing central heating and cooling plant (“Central Utility Plant”) that provides heating and cooling services to 30 buildings encompassing approximately 1.8 million square feet of building space. The Project would modernize and refurbish the existing chiller plant and boiler plant buildings, upgrade the interior electrical systems and the plumbing systems, and include energy management systems and controls for the chilled and hot water generation at the plant. The Project would result in 3,700 tons of cooling capacity at the chiller plant and 46,100 MBH (thousand British Thermal Units [BTU] per hour) of heating capacity at the boiler plant, which represent reductions compared to existing capacity at the Central Utility Plant. The Project would replace the existing chilled and hot water distribution piping system and connections to existing buildings, primarily within the existing piping routes and trenches. Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation from solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on three existing campus parking lots would also be included in the Project. The construction timeline of the Project would be approximately three years.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: The Board of Trustees of the California State University

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California State University, Fresno (Fresno State)

The project is exempt from CEQA under the following authority:

- Ministerial (CEQA Statute § 21080[b][1]; CEQA Guidelines §15268)
- Declared Emergency (CEQA Statute § 21080[b][3]; CEQA Guidelines §15269[a])
- Emergency Project (CEQA Statute § 21080[b][4]; CEQA Guidelines §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines §15302, State class number: Class 2)
- Statutory Exemptions (CEQA Statute §21080.35)


Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project is categorically exempt under Class 2 (Replacement or Reconstruction), having met the conditions set forth in CEQA Guidelines §15302. The Project would fall under Class 2 as it would modernize and refurbish the Central Utility Plant and replace the distribution piping, while not increasing the production capacity over existing conditions. Additionally, the Project does not meet any of the exceptions for taking a categorical exemption, under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2.

The Project is also statutorily exempt from CEQA, as the solar PV system portion of the Project would meet all conditions of CEQA Guidelines §21080.35. The proposed solar PV portion of the project does not include a substation (PRC CEQA Statute §21080.35[b][2]), nor transmission or distribution facilities; is located on the same parcel of the buildings to be served; does not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface; does not occupy an area that contains plants protected by the Native Plant Protection Act; does not require an individual permit pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act, waste discharge requirements pursuant to the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, an individual take permit for species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act, and/or a streambed alteration permit pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (PRC §21080.35[d]); and does not remove a tree required to be planted, maintained, or protected pursuant to local, state, or federal requirements or a native tree over 25 years old (PRC §21080.35[e]).

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Tinnah Medina, AIA LEED AP **Area Code/Telephone:** (559) 278-2373

Signature:  Tinnah Medina, AIA LEED AP
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Date: 1/29/2021

Title: Associate Vice President, Facilities Management

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____