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 Campus

Project Title: Optimized Controls for Cooling California Dairy Cows

Project Location:

Address	City	County
4390 Fox Rd	Atwater 95301	Merced
1560 Cerini Ave	Laton 93242	Fresno
11275 Road 96	Pixley 93256	Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS CAMPUS. Proposed resolution approving agreement GFO-20-309-5 with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of the Davis campus for a $1,529,705.00 grant to develop, test, and demonstrate a controller for cooling systems to minimize electricity and water consumption for cooling dairy cows to reduce heat stress, and adopting staff's determination that this action is exempt from CEQA (EPIC funding).

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 Campus

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:

This project will develop, test, and demonstrate an innovative control algorithm for a cooling system that will help minimize electricity and water consumption used to cool dairy cows. The control algorithm will be developed and tested in an existing laboratory and will not require any modifications to the laboratory. The control algorithm will be demonstrated at five existing California dairies using existing fans and sprayers at the dairies. The project will not require any additional permitting or involve any construction or installation activities.

This project is therefore categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301 as minor alterations to existing facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of an

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

existing or former use at the sites. The project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15306 as basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities. The project does not involve any unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to any scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, none of the sites are included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The project, when considered as a whole, will not result in a cumulative impact that is significant on the environment. Therefore, none of the exceptions to exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: **Neeva Benipal** **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0811

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:** 6/1/2021 **Title:** Energy Generation System Specialist

☐ **Signed by Responsible Agency**

☒ **Signed by Lead Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant** **Date received for filing at OPR:** _____

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