

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
 PO Box 3044  
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Energy Commission  
 715 P Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** OWB Packers, LLC

**Project Title:** Advanced Energy Efficiency Upgrades Phase II at the OWB Packers Facility

**Project Location – Specific:** 57 Shank Rd

**Project Location – City:** Brawley 92227      **Project Location – County:** Imperial

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

The California Energy Commission will provide a \$1,100,000 grant to OWB Packers, LLC (Recipient) to fund the project. The Recipient will install energy efficient equipment at the Recipient's meat processing facility in Brawley, California. Specifically, equipment related to vacuum systems, hydraulic systems, boiler feed water pumps, packaging shrink tunnels, air handling systems, and controls. These installations will reduce energy consumption, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions. Beneficiaries include OWB Packers, LLC and local communities around the Recipient's meat processing facility (with decrease of GHG emissions).

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** OWB Packers, LLC

**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, § 15302
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project will install energy efficient equipment at the OWB Packers meat processing facility in Brawley. The project will not have a significant impact on the environment and falls under categorical exemption Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, sect. 15301. This project will involve minor alteration of existing mechanical equipment at an existing meat processing facility and will result in negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The energy efficient equipment consists of variable frequency drives (VFDs), pumps, controls hardware, and associated mechanical and electrical components. The materials used to construct these systems are chemically inert, not hazardous to human health, and do not have a significant effect on the environment. The systems purchased have safety certifications in compliance with relevant codes and standards. In addition, all required permits for installation and operation of the system will be obtained prior to system installation and demonstration. The

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

demonstrations will not have a significant impact on local air quality, noise, or traffic and is expected to reduce local criteria pollutant emissions.

This project also falls under categorical exemption Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, sect. 15302. This project involves the replacement of existing mechanical equipment at an existing meat processing facility in Brawley, CA. This project will replace existing inefficient equipment at an existing food processing facility to reduce energy consumption, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions. The new equipment will be located on the same site as the equipment replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the equipment replaced.

Each exemption is an independent basis for finding the project exempt.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not 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. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, sect. 15300. apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Matthew Stevens **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** (919) 916-0133

**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:** Matthew Stevens **Date:** 6/26/2023 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Date received for filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_