

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: Calion Technologies, Inc.

Project Title: Ionocaloric Heat Pumps for Zero-GWP Heating

Project Location – Specific: 1 Cyclotron Rd

Project Location – City: Berkeley 94720 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Calion Technologies, Inc. Proposed resolution approving agreement EPC-23-030 with Calion Technologies, Inc. for a \$1,500,000.00 grant to develop a non-vapor compression, ionocaloric heat pump as a heating solution for commercial buildings, and adopting staff’s determination that this project is exempt from CEQA. This laboratory-based project will develop a 5 kW bench top prototype ionocaloric heat pump with 40 kWh of integrated thermal storage.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Calion Technologies, Inc.

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:

California Code Regulations, title 14, section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project involves operating or conducting lab work and creating a prototype heat pump at an existing facility, with no expansion of capacity. This lab work is at an existing, developed site on land that is not environmentally sensitive. No historical resources or buildings will be affected. Noise and odors will not be generated by this activity in excess of existing permitted amounts. The lab work will not increase traffic to these sites and will not require permits for air, water, conditional use, building expansion, hazardous waste, or rezoning. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA under section 15301.

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

California Code Regulations, title 14, section 15306 provides that projects which consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project involves basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental source. This project includes mechanical design studies and engineering analyses of ionocaloric heat pump designs. Prototype designs and development will be lab tested in a controlled research laboratory specifically designed for the purpose of testing industrial equipment. This work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15306.

This project does not involve impacts on any particularly sensitive environment; 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 in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jeanie Mar **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0791

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:** _____ **Title:** _____

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____