

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: Nelumbo Inc.

Project Title: Demonstration & Deployment of Nelumbo's Ice-Nein Evaporator Coating

Project Location – Specific: 30200 Whipple Rd

Project Location – City: Union City 94587 **Project Location – County:** Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The primary objective of this agreement is to achieve 20% reduction in energy consumption, enable load shifting, and subsequently reduce grid-level greenhouse gas emissions. This will be achieved by applying Nelumbo's Ice-Nein technology, a coating, to evaporator coils to reduce the rate of frost accumulation, defrost cycle frequency, and defrost cycle duration. The subsequent higher integrated capacity and reduced parasitic heat loss will result in the desired increase in energy efficiency, whereas the longer cycle time will allow for flexibility capacity. The advanced coating and evaporators will be installed at the existing Daylight Foods facility in Union City, CA.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Nelumbo 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 of 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 upgrading an existing facility's refrigeration system with enhanced evaporator coils that will have a similar cooling capacity. The new system will take up the same amount of space and does not involve adding additional square footage to the facility. The updated refrigeration system uses less power and will not result in an additional electrical load. The project will take place at an existing, developed site on land that is not environmentally sensitive. No historical resources or building will be affected. Noise and odors will not be generated by this activity in excess of existing permitted amounts. The project will not increase traffic to the site 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 of Regulations, title 14, section 15306, provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resources 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 upgrading an existing facility's refrigeration system with enhanced evaporator coils that will have a similar cooling capacity and will entail data collection, research, and experimental management that will not result in serious or major disturbances 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: Christian Fredericks **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0755

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: Christian Fredericks **Date:** 08/21/24 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Responsible Agency

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____