

**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:** The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara

**Project Title:** Harnessing the Potential of AI in Industrial Refrigeration Systems

**Project Location – Specific:** 3251 De Forest Cir

**Project Location – City:** Jurupa Valley 91752      **Project Location – County:** Riverside

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

The purpose of this Agreement is to fund a project that demonstrates and enhances the scalability of advanced energy efficiency, load reduction, and thermal load shifting technologies in industrial refrigerated warehouses through the use of artificial intelligence (AI)-based control solutions.

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

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara

**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, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15306 provides that a project that conducts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation which will not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource are exempt from the provisions of CEQA. This project will demonstrate and enhance the scalability of advanced energy efficiency, load reduction, and thermal load shifting technologies in industrial refrigerated warehouses through the use of artificial intelligence-based control solutions. The activities funded by the agreement will not cause a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because it only involves a software upgrade (ATLAS Platform) at the facility. There will be no structural changes to the facility.

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

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.  
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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 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under section 15306.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Rajesh Kapoor **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0778

**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:** Rajesh Kapoor **Date:** 09/25/2024 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

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