

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: California Dairies, Inc.

Project Title: Demonstrating a High Temperature Solar Thermal System at the CDI Visalia Dairy Processing Facility

Project Location – Specific: 2000 N Plaza Dr

Project Location – City: Visalia 93291

Project Location – County: Tulare

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

The purpose of this project is to design, install, and operate a high-temperature solar thermal energy system at the Recipient's dairy processing facility. This system will convert solar energy into supplemental heat for thermal processes resulting in reduced natural gas consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Natural gas consumption will be measured before and after the system is installed in order to quantify and validate the GHG emissions reductions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Dairies, 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
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number. PRC § 21080.35
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project will install a solar thermal energy system at the California Dairies, Inc. dairy processing facility in Visalia, CA.

This project will involve minor alteration of existing mechanical equipment at an existing food processing facility and will result in negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The solar thermal energy system consists of solar collectors, heat exchangers, hot water storage tanks, piping, insulation, and associated racking, wiring, fittings, and fasteners. The materials used to construct the system are chemically inert, not hazardous to human health, and do not have a significant effect on the environment. The system will undergo safety testing prior to installation at the demonstration site to ensure compliance with relevant environmental codes and standards. In addition, all required permits for construction and operation of the system will be obtained prior to system installation and demonstration. The demonstration will not have a significant impact on local air quality, noise, or traffic, and is

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expected to reduce local criteria pollutant emissions. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption listed in 14 C.C.R. §15301.

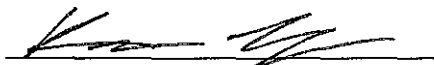
This project will involve the installation of a solar energy system on the roof of an existing building and pursuant to Pub. Res. Code § 21080.35 is exempt from CEQA. The materials will enable the generation and use of solar-heated water and associated equipment will not occupy more than 500 square feet of ground surface. No individual federal Clean Water Act permits or waste discharge requirements under Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, individual take permits or streambed alteration permits will be needed for this project. For these reasons, this project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under Pub. Res. Code § 21080.35.

**Lead Agency**

Contact Person: Kevin Uy Area code/Telephone/Ext: 916-327-1533

**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: 3/7/2019 Title: MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Signed by Responsible Agency
- Signed by Lead Agency
- Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 11 2019  
Date received for filing at OPR: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE