

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: Enersion Inc.

Project Title: 0 GWP Cooling and Heating by Compressor-less DC HVAC Nanogrid Module - REVISED

Project Location – Specific: 8425 Almeria Ave

Project Location – City: Fontana 92335 **Project Location – County:** San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project aims to develop and demonstrate an innovative DC-powered HVAC nanogrid module that integrates solar thermal collectors and thermal energy storage. This module will provide cost-effective, efficient, and sustainable cooling and heating solutions, particularly for under-resourced communities. The system leverages Enersion's novel heat pump technology, which uses a unique refrigeration cycle with nano-porous materials and water as a refrigerant, significantly reducing electricity consumption and eliminating the need for synthetic refrigerants. The project will be implemented at SunEarth, Inc.'s headquarters in Fontana, California, showcasing the technology's ability to operate efficiently with minimal grid dependency and promoting renewable energy adoption.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Enersion 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:

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15301 provides that projects which consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public and private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, and which involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project aims to develop and demonstrate a DC-powered HVAC nanogrid module that integrates solar thermal collectors and thermal energy storage. This project involves the design, fabrication, and testing activities at an existing, developed site that involves no new construction or expansion of the facility. Therefore, this 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.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 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, as this project will validate its system model through data collection and perform parametric analyses to optimize the module's performance. This work will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and therefore, the project shall be exempt from CEQA under Section 15306.

Additionally, 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 in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The Energy Commission made CEQA findings pertaining to this project, including finding that it was categorically exempt under Title 14 CCR 15301 and 15306 when grant agreement EPC-24-036 for this project was originally approved by the Commission on February 12, 2025. The currently proposed changes through this amendment involve changing the location of the test site. These changes will not result in any environmental impacts beyond those already considered by the Commission and do not change the applicability of the categorical exemptions listed above.

Public Agency

Contact Person: Jackson Thach **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0818

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: Jackson Thach **Date:** 3-13-2026 **Title:** Mechanical Engineer

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____