

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: Prospect Silicon Valley

Project Title: Next Generation Modular CO2 Heat Pumps for Multi-Family Buildings

Project Location – Specific: 2048 Corporate Court

Project Location – City: San Jose

Project Location – County: Santa Clara County

Project Location – Specific: 3419-3431 San Pablo Ave

Project Location – City: Oakland

Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate an advanced, cost-competitive CO₂-based heat pump system capable of providing simultaneous heating, cooling, and domestic hot water for multifamily buildings, replacing conventional gas-fueled systems with ultra-low GWP refrigerant technology. The project aims to reduce first costs through modular design, validate performance through lab and field testing, and showcase grid-responsive controls for demand flexibility and energy efficiency.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Prospect Silicon Valley

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 Existing Facilities provides that the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features which involve negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the responsible agency's determination, are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. This project involves the development and installation of a CO₂-based heat pump heating, cooling, and domestic hot water system in an existing laboratory at the Lawrence Berkeley

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

The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the Davis campus

National Laboratory. Once laboratory testing has concluded, the system will be installed in a multifamily building in Oakland in parallel with a standard HVAC and hot water system for purposes of comparison of the performance of the systems against each other. There will be no expansion of use of the laboratory due to the installation of the system and minimal expansion of use, and no expansion of structures, the project site beyond that in existence at the time the standard HVAC and hot water systems are installed. Therefore, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from CEQA under California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306, provides that projects which consist of data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to environmental resources, are categorically exempt from CEQA. This project consists of research and data collection associated with the in-laboratory development and subsequent onsite installation of a CO₂-based heat pump system in parallel with standard HVAC and hot water systems; data and information will be collected on the performance of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning energy load. For this reason, the proposed work will not have a significant impact on the environment and is exempt from CEQA under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, 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 apply to this project, and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment

Public Agency

Contact Person: Jason Tancher **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0822

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:** 03/19/2026 **Title:** Utility Engineer

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant**

Date received for filing at OPR: _____