

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: Icebox Heat Pumps Inc

Project Title: CO2 Heat Pump Systems for Buildings Across California

Project Location – Specific: TBD

Project Location – City: Petaluma 94952 **Project Location – County:** Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will develop and deploy a high-efficiency, fully electric CO2-based heat pump to replace natural gas furnaces and HVAC systems that rely on high-GWP synthetic refrigerants. The purpose is to advance a scalable, ultra-low-GWP space conditioning solution that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers energy use and costs, and supports California's building electrification and climate goals across diverse climate zones. Beneficiaries include California homeowners and renters, particularly those in low-income and multifamily housing who will gain access to reliable, affordable heating and cooling, as well as electric utility ratepayers and the State of California through reduced grid stress and improved environmental outcomes.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Icebox Heat Pumps 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.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption because it involves the installation, testing, and replacement of mechanical equipment within existing residential buildings with no expansion of use and no physical alteration of the structures beyond routine HVAC work. The project consists of installing CO2-based heat pump systems as replacements for existing gas furnaces or conventional HVAC units in single-family and multifamily buildings. Installation activities are limited to standard HVAC scope, including placement of indoor and outdoor units, use of existing or equivalent refrigerant line sets, electrical connections, and mounting on existing pads or building exteriors. No new buildings will be constructed, and no increase in building capacity, occupancy, or square footage will occur. The project does not involve grading, trenching beyond minor electrical or conduit work typical of HVAC replacement, vegetation removal, or disturbance of undisturbed land. All work

will occur within previously developed residential sites, and the upgraded equipment will serve the same space-conditioning function as the existing systems, consistent with the criteria for exemption under Section 15301.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Harrison Reynolds **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-776-0692

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: Harrison Reynolds **Date:** _____ **Title:** Associate Energy Specialist

Signed by Public Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____