Notice of Exemption **Form D**

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: Rocky Mountain Institute

Project Title: Scaling Industrialized Zero Emissions Retrofits in California and Beyond

Project Location – Specific: 642 Eisenhower St

Project Location – City: Davis 95616 **Project Location – County:** Yolo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The purpose of this project is to:
1) Establish a national Collaborative consisting of key stakeholders to enhance the uptake of innovative high-performance construction technologies.
2) Develop and pilot test a multi-function heat pump system heat for space conditioning and domestic hot water at a single-family residence.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Rocky Mountain Institute

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:

The amendment to this project adds on-site demonstration and M&V data analysis. These activities are exempt from CEQA under 14 CCR section 15301, existing facilities because the work will involve retrofitting existing single-family housing to replace existing heating and cooling systems with multi-functional heat pump system for space conditioning and domestic hot water. The activities are also exempt from CEQA under 14 CCR section 15306, data collection because it will include limited data collection. The work involves no changes to existing uses of the existing buildings and fits within the scope of listed examples of both exemptions.

15301: Existing Facilities

To fit within this exemption, a project must meet all of the following criteria:

1) Consist of operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration

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

2) of existing structure, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features,

3) which involves negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's CEQA determination.

This Agreement is exempt under 14 CCR section 15301: Existing Facilities because it will design and pilot test a multi-functional heat pump system in existing facilities and does not constitute use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's CEQA determination. There will be no alterations to a building structure or site.

15306: Information Collection

To fit within this exemption, a project must meet all of the following criteria:

1) Consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities

2) Which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

This Agreement is exempt under 14 CCR section 15306: Information Collection because activities are strictly limited to data collection, technical research, and market analysis that do not cause a serious or major disturbance to any environmental resource. Core tasks outlined in the Scope of Work focus on non-invasive activities such as pre- and post-retrofit energy monitoring, and site assessment inspections.

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.

This amendment poses no risk to the environment beyond what was previously approved on the April 14, 2021 Business Meeting.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: **Felix Villanueva** **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-232-8997

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: Felix Villanueva **Date:** 10/27/2026 **Title:** Utilities Engineer

☒ **Signed by Public Agency**

☐ **Signed by Applicant** **Date received for filing at OPR:** _____

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