

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: Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Project Title: Demonstrating a High Temperature Solar Thermal System at the Land O'Lakes Dairy Processing Facility

Project Location – Specific: 400 S M St

Project Location – City: Tulare 93274

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 a 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: Land O'Lakes, 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, § 15303 ; Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- 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 Land O'Lakes dairy processing facility in Tulare, 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 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 involves the construction, location, and installation of new, small facilities, structures, and equipment. In order to perform the demonstration, the system must be installed at the demonstration site. The installation will require minimal construction activity. The equipment may be placed on the roof of the facility or directly on the ground. This minimal construction is well within the size limits listed in the examples given in 14 C.C.R. § 15303 (e.g., it is less than a single-family residence, duplex, and the 2,500 square feet - or 10,000 square feet in urban areas - for a store, motel, office, restaurant, or similar structure). This construction will not have a significant impact on local air quality, noise, or traffic and will not induce additional operations at the site. 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. § 15303.

This project involves minor public or private alterations in the condition of land including minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. The proposed project lacks infrastructure for underground cables and insulated pipes. For these reasons, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment and falls under the categorical exemption 14 C.C.R. § 15304.

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

Date received for filing at OPR: MAR 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE