

## 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  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-48  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** Porifera, Inc.

**Project Title:** Energy and Water Savings in Food and Beverage Wastewater Reuse

**Project Location:**

Address	City	County
9535 Archibald Ave	Rancho Cucamonga 91730	San Bernardino
28801 Highway 58	Bakersfield 93314	Kern
600 Garner Rd	Modesto 95357	Stanislaus

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

Demonstration of the technology will allow for cost-effective on-site reuse of waste streams that are normally energy intensive and therefore expensive to treat with current technologies. The goal of this agreement is to demonstrate the PFO Recycler to reduce the energy, chemicals, and maintenance required for reuse of extremely difficult-to-treat industrial starchy wastewaters. The PFO Recycler turns the customer's wastewater into clean water for reuse and creates a waste concentrate that can be reused as a biomass feedstock or for ethanol production. This reduces waste disposal fees, increases water availability and reduces energy use by 30-50%. The technology could keep water on site for reuse which would allow for less water to be pumped from external sources in addition to reducing energy to transport and treat the water externally. The primary beneficiaries would be the processors who adopt the technology to reduce full cycle costs of water and energy, which would ideally result in reduced costs for other ratepayers.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Porifera, 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, § 15311
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

This project involves laboratory analysis research, equipment design and assembly, and equipment operation. All proposed activities will take place within existing, fully permitted buildings or facilities, without need for expansion or significant modification of the facilities. The new recycler system will be installed and operated at 1-3 potato chip manufacturing plants located across Southern California and the Central Valley. The system will be skid-mounted, measuring about 10 ft x 15 ft x 15 ft, and will use existing infrastructure (plumbing, electrical, water, and sewer), with little to no impact to on the facilities' operations. None of the proposed activities will have a significant effect on the environment. California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301 exempts operation and minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of determination. Additionally, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15311 exempts construction, or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities if the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:** Rachel Salazar **Area code/Telephone/Ext:** 916-445-5316

**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:** Rachel Salazar **Date:** 4/16/19 **Title:** Energy Commission Specialist I

☐ Signed by Responsible Agency

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

☐ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Date received for filing at OPR:** APR 22 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE