

**CALIFORNIA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND
ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION FINANCING AUTHORITY**

***Request to Approve a Time Extension for the
Initial Term of the Regulatory Agreement¹***

**Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC
Application No. 20-SM020**

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Prepared By: *Joshua Moua, Program Analyst*

SUMMARY

Applicant – Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC

Location – Kerman, Fresno County

Industry – Dairy Biogas Production

Project – New Dairy Biogas Production Facility (Alternative Source)

Total Amount Qualified Property Approved– \$9,573,170

Estimated Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Amount at Approval² – \$800,317

Amount of Time Requested –

- Requesting a one (1) year and six (6) month extension, until March 17, 2026, for the Initial Term of the Regulatory Agreement (a total of six (6) years from the date of initial CAEATFA Board approval of March 17, 2020)

Staff Recommendation – Approval

¹ All capitalized terms not defined in this document are defined in the Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program’s statutes and regulations.

² This amount is calculated based on the average statewide sales tax rate at the time of initial approval, which was 8.36%.

REQUEST

On March 17, 2020, the CAEATFA Board approved a Sales and Use Tax Exclusion (“STE”) award for Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC (the “Applicant”) for the purchase of up to \$9,573,170 in Qualified Property to build a lagoon digester that will produce dairy biogas in Kerman (the “Project”). The Regulatory Agreement (“Agreement”) initial term provided the Applicant with three years from the date of Board Approval to utilize its STE award.³ On January 17, 2023, the CAEATFA Board approved the Applicant for a one year and six-month extension of the initial term of the Agreement from its original termination date of March 17, 2023 to September 17, 2024 to accommodate pandemic related scheduling delays and supply chain bottlenecks.

As of July 2024, the Applicant has used the STE award to purchase approximately \$6.4 million of Qualified Property (67% of the total Qualified Property approved). The Applicant is requesting to extend the Agreement initial term by an additional one year and six months to accommodate the procurement of additional equipment and piping materials for expansion purposes.

The Applicant states that while majority of the construction at its production facility is complete, it has yet to install a booster blower skid to increase suction pressure (estimated lead time of 49 weeks) and the associated piping and electrical equipment. The Applicant also states that its equipment capacity needs to be augmented to accommodate the additional biogas required by its offtaker. The current timeline for completion of the remaining construction is estimated for 12 months but given the Applicant’s experience with long lead times for equipment and unforeseen issues, 18 months was requested to have a buffer.

The initial term of the Agreement can be extended by the Board upon a finding that an extension is in the public interest and advances the purposes of the STE Program.⁴

THE APPLICANT

Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC is a California limited liability company formed in 2017. The products the Applicant produces create environmental credits such as Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) that are sold to parties such as BMW, Tesla, ChargePoint or EV-GO. The Applicant has negotiated with biogas entities to exclusively sell its product in California.

The major shareholders (10.0% or greater) of the Applicant are:
Belmont Palm Properties, LTD (38%)
Shehadey Properties, LTD - 38%
CalBio Hold Co. LLC (24%)

The company officers of the Applicant are:
Steve Shehadey, Manager

³ California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10035(b)(1)

⁴ California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10035(b)(1)(B)

THE PROJECT

Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC received an STE award to build a lagoon digester that will produce dairy biogas in Kerman. In addition, the Applicant states it will install a fuel cell electrical generator and biogas processing equipment as part of the Project. According to the Applicant, it receives RECs when using the biogas onsite to power the plant. The RECs are then sold to electric vehicle operators, which generates Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits.

Consistent with CAEATFA policy at the time of award, the Qualified Property in this Application will be used to manufacture biogas and includes a portion of a 2 MW fuel server used to power the digester and dairy operations related to the production of dairy biogas. The Project's equipment will consume 50 percent of the total amount of energy generated, therefore 50 percent of the power generation equipment is eligible for an STE under the Program. However, the remaining 50 percent of the power generation equipment was not included in the Application as this represents the proportion of electricity that will be sold to the grid, a neighboring operation, or the dairy for milk production.

The Project has received grants for digester-related expenses from the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the amount of up to \$3 million under the Dairy Digester Research and Development grant program.

AGREEMENT INITIAL TERM EXTENSION REQUEST

The Applicant has requested that the initial term of the Agreement be extended from September 17, 2024, to March 17, 2026, in order to accommodate procurement of additional equipment for expansion purposes.

Staff Evaluation

According to the Applicant, while the scope of the Project has not changed, construction at its facility has been ongoing due to delayed equipment purchases and long lead times, which has affected the overall production capacity. The Applicant states it has overcome the Project obstacles and already placed equipment orders for expansion.

Based on this information, Staff believes extending the initial term of the Agreement will allow for the Project to be completed, and is, therefore, in the public interest and advances the purposes of the STE Program.

LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Staff reviewed the Applicant's responses to the questions contained in the Legal Status portion of the Application. The responses did not disclose any information that raises questions concerning the financial viability or legal integrity of this Applicant.

CAEATFA FEES

In accordance with STE Program regulations,⁵ the Applicant has paid an additional fee of \$2,000 because extending the initial term qualifies as a modification to the Applicant’s Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve the Applicant’s request to extend the initial term of the Agreement by one year and six months to March 17, 2026, as it is in the public interest and advances the purposes of the STE Program.

Attachments

- Attachment A: Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC’s letter requesting waiver (July 19, 2024)
- Attachment B: Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC’s staff summary at the time of approval

⁵ California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10036(c)(1)(B)

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A TIME EXTENSION FOR
BAR 20 DAIRY BIOGAS, LLC’S INITIAL TERM FOR
THE REGULATORY AGREEMENT**

September 17, 2024

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (the “Authority”), a public instrumentality of the State of California, approved a Sales Tax Exclusion (“STE”) in the amount of \$9,573,170 of Qualified Property for **Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC** (the “Applicant”); and

WHEREAS, within three (3) years of approval by the Authority, the Applicant must make all Qualified Property purchases (STE Program regulations Section 10035(b)(1)); and

WHEREAS, upon a finding that it is in the public interest and advances the purposes of the Program, the Authority may waive the requirement that all purchases of Qualified Property be made within three (3) years of Application approval (STE Program regulations Section 10035(b)(1)(B)); and

WHEREAS, the Applicant previously had requested a waiver of the requirement to purchase all of the Qualified Property within three (3) years due to unexpected delays in the Project timeline, extending the term by one (1) year and six (6) months to September 17, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has requested a waiver of the requirement to purchase all of the Qualified Property by September 17, 2024, due to unexpected delays in the Project timeline, extending the term by one (1) year and six (6) months to March 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, granting the waiver will allow the Project to proceed and the state to receive the anticipated environmental and economic benefits that justified the initial approval of the Project in accordance with the law, thereby advancing both the public interest and the purposes of the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, as follows:

Section 1. The Authority finds that it is in the public interest and advances the purposes of the Program to extend the Applicant’s initial term of the Regulatory Agreement to March 17, 2026.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Attachment A: Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC’s Letter Requesting Waiver (July 19, 2024)



Plugging dairies into a renewable future.

July 19, 2024

Dear CAEATFA Board,

California Bioenergy and Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC have greatly appreciated support from the CAEATFA STE program. The program is essential to the financial viability of our capital-intensive projects.

We are pleased that our programs continue to gain momentum including expansion opportunities.

Schedule impacts have been variable across the project. Since we completed the construction of our project, our equipment capacity needs to be augmented to accommodate the additional biogas required by our offtaker. The equipment capacity upgrade requires procurement of additional equipment and piping materials.

Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC would like to request an 18-month extension of the 09/17/2024 deadline for spending of all QP. This would greatly support our ability to upgrade our facilities to handle the additional biogas that will need to be processed.

Below, please see a summary of approval and claims through the most recent reporting period.

Project	ST Exclusion Approved	ST Exclusion Claimed as of 06/30/24
Bar 20 Dairy Biogas	\$9,573,170.00	\$6,433,241.86

Thank you for the consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Swartz".

Jennifer Swartz
Sr Director of Treasury, California Bioenergy LLC

Attachment B: Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC’s Staff Summary at the Time of Approval

**Agenda Item – 4.F.6
Resolution No. 20-SM020
Application No. 20-SM020**

**CALIFORNIA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND
ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION FINANCING AUTHORITY**

Request to Approve Project for Sales and Use Tax Exclusion (STE)¹

**Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC
Application No. 20-SM020**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Prepared By: *Xee Moua, Program Analyst*

SUMMARY

Applicant – Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC

Location – Kerman, Fresno County

Industry – Dairy Biogas Production

Project – New Dairy Biogas Production Facility (Alternative Source)

Value of Qualified Property – \$9,573,170

Estimated Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Amount² – \$800,317

Estimated Quantifiable Net Benefits – \$653,015

Competitive Criteria Score – 165

Application Score –

Fiscal Benefits Points:	1,698
<u>Environmental Benefits Points:</u>	<u>118</u>
Net Benefits Score:	1,816
<u>Additional Benefits Points:</u>	<u>130</u>
Total Score:	1,946

Staff Recommendation – Approval

¹ All capitalized terms not defined in this document are defined in the Program’s statute and regulations.

² This amount is calculated based on the average statewide sales tax rate of 8.36%.

**Agenda Item – 4.B.2
Resolution No. 20-SM020-02**

**Agenda Item – 4.F.6
Resolution No. 20-SM020
Application No. 20-SM020**

THE APPLICANT

Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC (“Bar 20” or the “Applicant”) is a California limited liability company formed in 2017. The products Bar 20 produces create environmental credits such as Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) that are sold to parties such as BMW, Tesla, ChargePoint or EV-GO. The Applicant has negotiated with biogas entities to exclusively sell its product in California.

The major shareholders (10.0% or greater) of Bar 20 are: California Bioenergy LLC (24%) John Bidart (32%) Unigy Holdings, LLC (32%) Go Ventures Inc. (26%) Shehadey Properties, LTD (36%) John Shehady and Family (100%) Belmont Palm Properties (26%) Richard Shehadey (100%)	The corporate officers of Bar 20 are: N. Ross Buckenham, CEO Neil Black, President
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THE PROJECT

Bar 20 is requesting a sales and use tax exclusion to build a lagoon digester that will produce dairy biogas in Kerman (the “Project”). The Applicant states it will also install a fuel cell electrical generator and biogas processing equipment as part of the Project. According to Bar 20, it receives RECs when using the biogas onsite to power the plant. The RECs are then sold to electric vehicle operators, which generates Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits.

Consistent with CAEATFA policy, the Qualified Property in this Application will be used to manufacture biogas and also includes a portion of a 2 MW fuel server used to power the digester and dairy operations related to the production of dairy biogas. The Project’s equipment will consume 50 percent of the total amount of energy generated, therefore 50 percent of the power generation equipment is eligible for an STE under the Program. However, the remaining 50 percent of the power generation equipment was not included in the Application as this represents the proportion of electricity that will be sold to the grid, a neighboring operation, or the dairy for milk production.

The Project has received grants for digester-related expenses from the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the amount of up to \$3 million under the Dairy Digester Research and Development grant program.

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ANTICIPATED COSTS OF QUALIFIED PROPERTY

The anticipated Qualified Property purchases are listed below:

Digester	\$3,693,170
H2S Treatment Plant	880,000
Fuel Server	<u>5,000,000</u>
Total	<u>\$9,573,170</u>

Note: The Qualified Property purchases reported in the Application and shown here in staff's report are estimated costs. At the termination of the master regulatory agreement a finalized project equipment list will be prepared detailing the value of the Project equipment acquired and the actual tax benefit realized pursuant to Revenue and Tax Code Section 6010.8. Variance from the costs shown in the Application and in this report may occur prior to the closing due to increased costs of certain components (of the Project) over original estimates, and other reasons. In addition, such costs may vary after closing due also to increased costs, as well as common design and equipment modifications during construction, differences in equipment due to future changes in law or regulation, or for other reasons.

TIMELINE

Bar 20 represents that construction of the Project will take place through Q1 2021 and production will begin in Q2 2021.

COMPETITIVE CRITERIA SCORE

In the event that CAEATFA receives Applications in excess of the statutory \$100 million cap for that calendar year, the order in which the Applications shall be considered in the same month will be ranked based on five Competitive Criteria.

The Applicant received 165 Competitive Criteria points as follows:

- 1. Environmental Benefits (100 points).** The Applicant's Project earned more than zero Total Pollution Benefits points (i.e. had environmental benefits that could be monetized and scored pursuant to the Program's regulations³), therefore 100 points are awarded.
- 2. Unemployment (50 of 50 points).** The Applicant's Project is located in Fresno County, which has an average annual unemployment rate of 7.2%. When compared to the statewide average annual unemployment rate, 4.1% in 2019, the dataset used in the Application, the Project location earned the Applicant an Unemployment Score of 50 points.
- 3. Job Creation (0 of 75 points).** The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of three production-related jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that none of these jobs will be attributable to a marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE.

³ California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10033(c)(4)

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Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned zero points.

4. **California Headquarters (15 points)**. The Applicant has a California Corporate Headquarters, therefore 15 points are awarded.
5. **Natural Disaster Relief (0 points)**. The Project is not to rebuild or relocate the Applicant's Facility due to a fire, flood, storm, or earthquake identified in the state of emergency proclamation made by the California State Governor within two years of the time of application, therefore zero points are awarded.

PROJECT EVALUATION

NET BENEFITS

The total cost of the Qualified Property purchases is anticipated to be \$9,573,170 and the total quantifiable net benefits are valued at \$653,015 for the Project. The Project received a Total Score of 1,946 points, which exceeds the required 1,000-point threshold, and a total Environmental Benefits Score of 118 points, which exceeds the 20-point threshold.

- A. **Fiscal Benefits (1,698 points)**. The net present value of the total fiscal benefits over the lifetime of the Qualified Property is derived from the Applicant's sales taxes, personal income taxes paid by the firm's employees, firm taxes on profits, property taxes, and other indirect fiscal benefits of the Applicant, which amounts to \$1,358,931, resulting in a Fiscal Benefits score of 1,698 points for the Project.
- B. **Environmental Benefits (118 points)**. The Project will result in \$94,401 of total pollution benefits over the life of the Project resulting in an Environmental Benefits Score of 118 points for the Project. These benefits derive from the production of dairy biogas, which offsets the need for use of fossil methane and the avoidance of methane emissions that would otherwise be released by the manure.
- C. **Additional Benefits (130 points)**. Applicants may earn additional points for their Total Score. The Applicant submitted information and received 130 additional points.
 1. **Production Jobs (0 of 75 points)**. The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of three production-related jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that none of these jobs will be attributable to a marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE. Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned zero points.
 2. **Construction Jobs (55 of 75 points)**. The Applicant represents that the Project will support a total of 67 construction jobs at its Facility. CAEATFA estimates that approximately seven of these jobs will be attributable to a

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marginal increase in jobs created due to the STE. Based on the amount of STE per estimated number of jobs created, the Applicant earned 55 points.

3. **Unemployment (50 of 50 points)**. The Applicant’s Project is located in Fresno County, which has an average annual unemployment rate of 7.2%. When compared to the statewide average annual unemployment rate, which was 4.1% in 2019, the dataset used in the Application, the Project location earned the Applicant an Unemployment Score of 50 points.
4. **Workforce Partnerships (25 points)**. The Applicant has a partnership with College of the Sequoias and Fresno State University for the purpose of assisting in the training of potential future workers.

STATUS OF PERMITS/OTHER REQUIRED APPROVALS

According to the Applicant, it has sought and received a California Environmental Quality Act permit needed for the dairy. The Applicant represents that all air, water, and building permits are in process and will be secured throughout 2020.

LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Staff reviewed the Applicant’s responses to the questions contained in the Legal Status portion of the Application. The responses did not disclose any information that raises questions concerning the financial viability or legal integrity of this Applicant.

CAEATFA FEES

In accordance with CAEATFA Regulations,⁴ the Applicant has paid CAEATFA an Application Fee of \$5,103 and will pay CAEATFA an Administrative Fee of up to \$38,292.68.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 20-SM020 for Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC’s purchase of Qualified Property in an amount not to exceed \$9,573,170, anticipated to result in an approximate sales and use tax exclusion value of \$800,317.

⁴ California Code of Regulations Title 4, Division 13, Section 10036

Agenda Item – 4.B.2
Resolution No. 20-SM020-02

Agenda Item – 4.F.6
Resolution No. 20-SM020
Application No. 20-SM020

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MASTER
REGULATORY AGREEMENT WITH BAR 20 DAIRY BIOGAS, LLC**

March 17, 2020

WHEREAS, the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (the “Authority” or “CAEATFA”) has received the Application of **Bar 20 Dairy Biogas, LLC** (the “Applicant”), for financial assistance in the form of a master regulatory agreement (the “Agreement”) regarding tangible personal property utilized in an Advanced Manufacturing process or for the design, manufacture, production or assembly of Advanced Transportation Technologies or Alternative Source products, components, or systems (“Qualified Property”) as more particularly described in the staff summary and in the Applicant’s Application to the Authority (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has requested the Authority to enter into the Agreement to acquire Project equipment with an estimated cost not to exceed \$9,573,170 over a period of three years; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant believes that this form of financial assistance will enable it to avail itself of the benefits of an exclusion from sales and use taxes relative to the Qualified Property pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 6010.8; and

WHEREAS, approval of the terms of the Agreement and authority for the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or Chair of the Authority to execute the necessary documents to effectuate the Agreement is now sought;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority, as follows:

Section 1. The Project constitutes a “project” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(8)(B).

Section 2. The requested master regulatory agreement constitutes “financial assistance” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(6).

Section 3. The Applicant is a “participating party” within the meaning of Public Resources Code Section 26003(a)(7).

Section 4. The Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or Chair of the Authority (the “Authorized Signatories”) are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Authority to approve any changes to the Project as the Executive Director shall deem appropriate, provided that the amount of the Qualified Property to be purchased may not be increased above the amount approved by the Authority.

Agenda Item – 4.B.2
Resolution No. 20-SM020-02

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Section 5. The proposed form of the Agreement between the Applicant and the Authority, as filed with the Authority prior to this meeting, is hereby approved. The Authorized Signatories are hereby authorized and directed, for and on behalf and in the name of the Authority, to execute, acknowledge and deliver to the Applicant the Agreement in substantially the form filed with or approved by the Authority, with such insertions, deletions or changes therein as the Authorized Signatory executing the same may require or approve, and with particular information inserted therein in substantial conformance with the staff summary and in the Applicant's Application to the Authority, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof. The Authority understands and agrees that pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the obligations of the Applicant may, under some circumstances, be carried out or assumed by a successor or assignee entity, or by an affiliate of the Applicant.

Section 6. Each of the Authorized Signatories, acting alone, is hereby authorized and directed to do any and all ministerial acts, including (without limitation) the execution and delivery of any and all documents and certificates they may deem necessary or advisable in order to consummate the Agreement and otherwise effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 7. The Applicant shall assure CAEATFA that all Qualified Property listed in the semi-annual reports pursuant to the Agreement shall be installed, maintained and operated in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws.

Section 8. The Agreement shall only apply to Qualified Property that the Applicant certifies will be installed, maintained and operated at facilities within the State of California.

Section 9. The adoption by the Authority of this Resolution for the Applicant shall not be referred to in any application before any governmental agency as evidence of the feasibility, practicality or suitability of the Project or in any application for any required permission or authority to acquire, construct or operate the Project.

Section 10. This Resolution is effective immediately and will remain in full force and effect unless the Regulatory Agreement, as defined in CAEATFA Regulations Section 10035(a), is not executed within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution. The Executive Director may extend the thirty days if necessary.