

State of California  
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

**California Environmental Quality Act**  
**Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Planning & Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Conservation  
Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources  
801 K Street, MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Meri Meraz (916) 445-9686

**State Clearinghouse #:** 2013081079

**Project Title:** Aera 052-0035

**Project Applicant:** Aera Energy, LLC

**Project Location:** South Belridge

County:           Kern           Section:           13          

Township:           28S           Range/Baseline:           20E / MD B&M          

Latitude/Longitude:           35.498929 / -119.765890          

**Project Description:** The original permit was to hydraulically fracture 11 wells in the South Belridge oil field. The sole amendment to these permits is the inclusion of permit condition number 7 pertaining to a conditional air sampling requirement.

Details on well locations can be found on the Division's website at:  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx>

**Exempt Status:** As the Responsible Agency, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division), has determined that the proposed project is exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to the specified exemptions marked in the section below. The Division further finds that the proposed project would not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment, or that any of the exceptions to the exemptions apply (14 CCR 15300.2).

Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Statutory Exemption:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project ( <i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i> )	21169	15261 (b)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	
<input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Categorical Exemption:</b>	21084		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection		15306	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection		15306	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	

CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR 15300.2): where project is located (e.g. sensitive environment); Cumulative Impact; Significant Effect due to Unusual Circumstances; Scenic Highways; Hazardous Waste Sites; Historical Resources.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The basis for the Division's determination that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

**Class 6 – Information Collection:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 6" (14 CCR 15306) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project proposes an addition of a data collection device, which is strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which the California Air Resources Board has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:** The Division further finds that there are no exceptions to the otherwise-applicable categorical exemptions (PRC §21084; 14 CCR 15300.2(c)). There is no substantial evidence that there are any "unusual circumstances" associated with the proposed project that create a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment, and that there is no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, this project is not subject to CEQA.

A copy of this NOE (as required by 14 CCR 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources/CEQA Unit, located at 801 K Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, Sacramento, CA 95812; or an electronic copy of these documents may be accessed online at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/CEQA>

Certified:

*Mari A. Meo*  
 Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
 CEQA Unit

Date:

Jan 25, 2019