

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:** Tharon Wright, (916) 445-9686

**Project Title:** OG SLC 4 Wells 12192019

**Project Applicant:** California State Lands Commission

**Project Location:** Rincon Oil Field – Rincon Island

County: Ventura Section: 13

Township: 03N Range/Baseline: 25W / SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 34.34745407, -119.44548798

**Project Description:**

The Project is the permanent plugging and abandonment of all 75 oil and gas wells located both offshore on Rincon Island and the onshore facility (50 offshore and 25 onshore). The California State Lands Commission (SLC) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for these projects. The SLC has filed a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2018108285) for the project.

This proposed project activity consists of the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) approving permits for, and oversight of, the plugging & abandonment of 4 of the 50 offshore wells in the Rincon Oil Field – Rincon Island, located offshore of Ventura County.

<b>API #</b>	<b>Well Name</b>
0421101611	State 1466 15
0421101636	State 1466 48
0421101654	State 1466 811
0421101635	State 1466 47

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 a Responsible Agency, the Division has determined that the proposed project is exempt from further environmental review requirements of 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 on the environment, or that any of the exceptions to the exemptions apply (14 CCR 15300.2).

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

### Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Upon considering the project, DOGGR determined that it is exempt for the following reasons:

**Statutory Exemption – Emergency Project:** The Division has determined that the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under the emergency project (14 CCR 15269 (c)) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines, where the specific plugging & abandonment actions are necessary to address the hazard posed by the desertion of operable oil and gas facilities on and affecting public lands.

**Class 1 – Existing Facility:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines and per DOGGR's regulations (14 CCR 684.1) because the project involves abandonment of wells, resulting in no expansion of use beyond that existing previously.

**Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the condition of land, water, air, and or vegetation within a developed oil field.

**Class 7 –Protection of Natural Resources:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 7" (14 CCR 15307) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves procedures for the protection of the environment. Offshore oil wells will be properly abandoned following DOGGR regulations to reduce the potential for future spills and/or releases to the environment.

**Class 8 –Protection of the Environment:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 8" (14 CCR 15308) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves actions taken by a regulatory agency to assure protection of the environment. Offshore oil wells will be properly abandoned by the State Lands Commission, following DOGGR regulations, to reduce the potential for future spills and/or releases to the environment.

**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 creates a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment and that there are 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, and 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:** T. Wynn

**Date:** 1/14/20

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
CEQA Unit

