

State of California
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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
Geologic Energy Management Division
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Jan Perez (916) 445-9686

Project Title: OG SLC 1 Wells 0411101601

Project Applicant: California State Lands Commission

Project Location: Rincon Oil Field – Rincon Island

County: Ventura

Section: 17

Township: 03N

Range/Baseline: 24W/ SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 34.34814270 -119.42211760

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 Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving permits for, and oversight of, the plugging & abandonment of 2 of the 50 offshore wells in the Rincon Oil Field – Rincon Island, located offshore of Ventura County.

API #	Well Name
0411101601	Hobson State 14

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

Exempt Status:

As the Responsible Agency, the CalGEM 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. CalGEM 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing Project (<i>pre-CEQA. Approval prior to 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption:	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 6: Information Collection		15306	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input checked="" 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 CalGEM's determination that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

Statutory Exemption – Emergency Project: The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under the emergency project (14 CCR 15269 (c)) exemption because CalGEM has determined per the CEQA Guidelines 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 project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines and per CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR §1684.1) because the wells will be installed within an existing oil field and involves no expansion of use of the oil field.

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves the minor alteration of the condition of land and/or vegetation within a densely developed oil field and does not require the removal of healthy, mature scenic trees.

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

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

Exceptions to Exemptions: CalGEM 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 CalGEM's CEQA Unit, located at 801 K Street, 14th floor, Sacramento, CA 95812; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>; and/or CalGEM's website at <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>



Certified:

Date:

January 22, 2021

Geologic Energy Management Division
CEQA Unit