

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 19 Wells 01192021

**Project Applicant:** California State Lands Commission

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

County: Ventura

Section: 17

Township: 03N

Range/Baseline: 25W/ SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 34.34770000 -119.44560800

**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	API #	Well Name
0421121585	State 1466 68	0421121595	State 1466 12
0421121586	State 1466 33	0421121596	State 1466 7
0421121587	State 1466 58	0421121597	State 1466 5
0421121588	State 1466 56	0421121589	State 1466 4
0421121589	State 1466 55	0421121599	State 1466 38
0421121590	State 1466 20	0421121600	State 1466 3
0421121591	State 1466 52	0421121601	State 1466 537
0421121592	State 1466 16	0421121602	State 1466 20
0421121593	State 1466 14	0421121603	State 1466 36
0421121594	State 1466 13		

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"/>	<b>Statutory Exemption:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project ( <i>pre-CEQA. Approval prior to April 5, 1973</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects	21169 21080 (b)(1) 21080 (b)(3) 21080 (b)(4)	15261 (b) 15268 15269 (a) 15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Categorical Exemption:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 3:</b> New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 6:</b> Information Collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit <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) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects	21084	15301 15303 15304 15306 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330 15333	1684.1  1684.2
<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)	

**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, 14<sup>th</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_



Geologic Energy Management Division  
CEQA Unit

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

February 5, 2021