

Notice of Exemption

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To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company Cymric Surface Expression Emergency Cleanup (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-034-04)

Project Location: The Project is located within the existing California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) Administrative Boundaries of the Cymric Oil Field in western Kern County, California. The Project is approximately 4 miles northwest of the town of McKittrick in Township 30 North, Range 21 West, Section 1. The Project is specifically within Assessor's Parcel Number 156-040-03, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map Reward, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued a California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code, § 2050 et seq.) Incidental Take Permit, No. 2081-2019-034-04, to permit Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company to incidentally take giant kangaroo rat which is designated as an endangered species under CESA, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox which are designated as a threatened species under CESA. (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D), (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The Project includes activities necessary to cleanup surface expressions which began May 10, 2019 and released approx. 1,339,800 gallons of crude oil and produced water into a nearby dry stream. Cleanup response activities include: construction of earthen berms to contain surface expression fluids and contaminated soil; construction and widening of roadways and ramps for access; construction and widening of pads for access, observation, driving, parking, equipment and vehicle storage, etc.; excavation and removal of any contaminated soils using heavy equipment or any other equipment required to safely implement and complete cleanup response activities; use of submersible pumps and temporary tanks to remove and store standing oil/water mixture; use of vacuum trucks to remove the oil/water mixture; use, storage, and transportation of solidifying/absorbent materials such as sodium polyacrylate; transportation of the oil/water mixture, contaminated soils, and clean soils; storage/stockpiling of contaminated soils; and excavation of clean soils from a borrow area.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

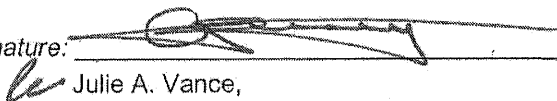
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, Robert Fragione, San Joaquin Valley Business Unit Operations Manager. 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, California 93311

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (c); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080, subdivision (b)(4)
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Annee Ferranti (Environmental Program Manager), 559-243-4005, extension 141

Signature:  Date: 8/14/19
Julie A. Vance,
Regional Manager, Central Region
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: AUG 14 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption**California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-034-04
North America Exploration and Production Company Cymric Surface Expression
Emergency Cleanup**

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for "Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency" (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). "Emergency" is defined as "A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services" (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.3).

The Project includes activities necessary to cleanup surface expressions which began May 10, 2019 and released approx. 1,339,800 gallons of crude oil and produced water into a nearby dry stream. The stream was divided into two segments by an earthen berm and cleanup of northern division (Division 1) began first (Figure 4). A road was cut on the west side of the stream for safe access by heavy equipment.

Cleanup of Division 1 consists of pumping of the oil and produced water mixture from the stream with submersible pumps and vacuum trucks and mixing clean soil and/or sodium polyacrylate into the oil and produced water mixture using a long-armed excavator to absorb the liquid, then excavating the contaminated soil. Front-end loaders then scoop up contaminated soil to take to the staging and stockpile area (1Y Staging Area; Figure 5). At the stockpile area, additional front-end loaders are used to load the contaminated soil into haul trucks for delivery to the off-site hazardous waste disposal facilities.

Once Division 1 is inspected to determine if the cleanup endpoints have been met, cleanup of the southern division (Division 2) will be delayed until an additional engineered earthen berm is constructed to further contain and secure the oil/water mixture within that stream segment and until the cause of the surface expression leak has been determined and corrected to ensure it no longer leaks.

Cleanup response activities include: construction of earthen berms inside and outside of the streambed to contain surface expression fluids and contaminated soil; construction and widening of roadways and ramps for access to safely implement and complete cleanup response activities; construction and widening of pads for access, observation, driving, parking, equipment and vehicle storage, or any other reason required to safely implement and complete cleanup response activities; clearing, grading, cutting, filling, or any dirt moving activity necessary to safely implement and complete cleanup response activities; excavation and removal of any contaminated soils using heavy equipment or any other equipment required to safely implement and complete cleanup response activities; use of submersible pumps and temporary tanks to remove and store standing oil/water mixture; use of vacuum trucks to remove the oil/water mixture; use, storage, and transportation of solidifying/absorbent materials such as sodium polyacrylate; transportation of the oil/water mixture, contaminated soils, and clean soils; storage/stockpiling of contaminated soils; and excavation of clean soils from a borrow area.

In order to keep wildlife from entering the Project area, wildlife exclusion and hazing activities include the use of propane cannons (e.g., zon gun) primarily at night with blasts occurring at