

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-48
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Applicant: Hell's Kitchen Geothermal LLC

Project Title: Hell's Kitchen Geothermal Lithium Extraction Pilot

Project Location – Specific: 7903 Davis Road

Project Location – City: Calipatria **Project Location – County:** Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Phase I of Hell's Kitchen Geothermal Lithium Extraction Pilot project will design a pilot-scale process for pre-treatment of geothermal brine preparing the brine for lithium extraction. Activities include the pilot plant design and plan to procure materials and services to construct and operate the pilot facility and will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and conducted strictly for information gathering purposes. In addition, Hell's Kitchen Geothermal LLC will prepare paperwork and ensure obtaining approvals from the lead agency to comply with CEQA for Phase II.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Energy Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Hell's Kitchen Geothermal LLC

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

Reasons why project is exempt:

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306 provides that basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource and conducted strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Activities that will be performed under Phase I of the agreement include the pilot plan design and plan to procure materials and services to construct and operate the facility as well as obtaining approvals from the lead agency to comply with CEQA. For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under section 15306.

