

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:** Tharon Wright (916) 324-9017

**Project Title:** GEO Faidinkum 0402591524

**Project Applicant:** Faidinkum Enterprises LLC

**Project Location:** Hot Mineral Spa field

County: Imperial Section: 1

Township: 9S Range/Baseline: 12E / SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 33.415656, -115.676875

**Project Description:** The proposed project consists of drilling one new warm water well in the geothermal zone (temp 140 F) for the purpose of commercial use. Use of the water is to be limited to heating water used in the fish farm operation and for no other purpose.

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 Lead Agency, the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), has determined that the proposed project is exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 2:</b> Replacement or Reconstruction <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 6:</b> Information Collection <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources <input 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 15302 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)	
<b>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR 15300.2):</b> 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.

**Class 1 – Existing Facilities:** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines. The new well will be replacing a failed well in the same area for an existing fish farming operation. The well will heat water to the fish farm operation and involves no expansion of the farming operation.

**Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction:** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 2" (14 CCR 15302) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the new well will be located on the same site as the failed well and will have the same purpose as the old well.

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 are no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, this project is exempt from 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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>

**Certified:** Tharon Wright **Date:** 5/26/21

Geologic Energy Management Division  
CEQA Unit