

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
715 P Street, MS 1803
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Larry Kleinecke, (916) 445-9686

Project Title: PAL Hillcrest 13600001

Project Applicant: Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation

Project Location: Cheviot Hills Oil Field

County: Los Angeles

Section: 36

Township: 01S

Range/Baseline: 15W SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 34.04560471, -118.41333771

Project Description: Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation proposes to update an existing Project Approval Letter (PAL), for Water Disposal UIC Project #13600001, to bring the PAL and injection well Rancho Park 9-1 into compliance with UIC regulations Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) §§ 1724.5-1724.13. As part of CalGEM's 2015 Renewal Program, CalGEM committed to evaluating existing UIC projects to ensure they are up to date and in compliance with the current UIC regulations. There will be no ground disturbance, grading or road construction associated with this project. There are no planned changes or anticipated changes to the project. No additional water disposal injection wells are anticipated for the project at this time. In addition, no new facilities are anticipated to be needed for the project nor changes to existing facilities.

Details on Underground Injection Control can be found on CalGEM's website at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Undergroundinjectioncontrol.aspx>

Exempt Status: As the Lead Agency, the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) 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. 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"/> Statutory Exemption:			
<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection		15306	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input 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)	

➤ **Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The basis for CalGEM's determination that the project is exempt from further CEQA review is briefly explained below.

15261(b) Ongoing Project: CalGEM has determined that the project is statutorily exempt under the Ongoing Project (14 CCR 15261 (b) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project is the continued operation of one pre-existing water disposal well in accordance with updated regulations, and the existing well and operations pre-date CEQA's enactment. In addition, CalGEM's oversight of the UIC activities taking place do not involve a greater degree of responsibility and control over the project as a whole.

Class 1 – Existing Facility: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines and CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR §1684.1) because the proposed project consists of ongoing operation of one Class II water disposal well according to current regulatory requirements and does not include any expansion of existing use.

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 and all other related materials are available for public inspection at CalGEM's CEQA Unit, located at 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified: _____
 Larry Kleinecke
 Geologic Energy Management Division
 CEQA Unit

Date: _____
 12/5/2022