

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  
 715 P Street, MS 1803  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
**Contact:** CEQA@conservation.ca.gov

**Project Title:** Aera 072023-001

**Project Applicant:** Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division

**Project Location:** South Belridge Oil Field; 29/28S/21E/MD; 35.46865082, -119.73880005

**Project Description:**

The originally approved project consists of reworking (cement squeeze perforations) an existing well. Temporary equipment for the project includes a workover rig and ancillary equipment. No new permanent facilities will be constructed. There will be no new ground disturbance or expansion of existing facilities associated with this project.

CalGEM has approved permits for Aera Energy LLC to rework the oil and gas wells listed below, in the South Belridge oilfield.

| API #      | Well Name   |
|------------|-------------|
| 0403019573 | DTR 921Z-29 |

**Exempt Status:** As the Lead Agency, 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 application of the exemptions apply (14 CCR § 15300.2).

| Exemption Type   | Statute (PRC)   | Regulation (14 CCR)                                 |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Statutory Exemption:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project ( <i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects | 21169<br>21080 (b)(1)<br>21080 (b)(3)<br>21080 (b)(4) | 15261 (b)<br>15268<br>15269 (a)<br>15269 (b) or (c) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Categorical Exemption:</b>  | 21084   |   |

|  |   |              |        |
|--|---|--------------|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities   | 15301        | 1684.1 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Class 2:</b> Replacement or Reconstruction   | 15302        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 3:</b> New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures   | 15303        |        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land   | 15304        | 1684.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources   | 15307        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment   | 15308        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures   | 15311        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit   | 15321        |        |
| <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) | 15330        |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects   | 15333        |        |
| <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) |        |
| <p><u>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR 15300.2):</u> where project is located (e.g. sensitive environment); Cumulative Impact; Significant Effect due to Unusual Circumstances; Scenic Highways; Hazardous Waste Sites; Historical Resources.</p> |   |              |        |

**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 (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1):** Class 1 exemption applies as CalGEM’s regulations state: “Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. The Class includes, but is not limited to: remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells...”. This rework is a cement squeeze of perforations and is considered maintenance of the well in order to ensure O&G production.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):** It is also a potential Class 2 as this type of rework of a well is considered “replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity”.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):** It is also a possible Class 4. The project would be conducted entirely in an existing pad of greater than 0.5 acres (enough to contain all equipment), . The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The project is located within an industrial area. Therefore, the project “consists of drilling operations that result in only minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.” The rework would not expand the facility and is conducted in order to maintain level of service.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:**

The Division 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

