## 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: CREH 082023-007

Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC

Project Location: Elk Hills Oil Field; 08/31S/24E/MD; 35.25254440, -119.42617798

## **Project Description:**

The originally approved project consists of reworking an existing well by fishing an existing liner, selectively squeezing existing perforations, selectively making new perforations, and installing a new gravel liner. The well will be returned to production after being idle. Various mobile temporary equipment will be used including, but not limited to, workover rig, etc., and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to/from the site. 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 California Resources Elk Hills, LLC to rework the oil and gas wells listed below, in the Elk Hills oilfield.

| API#       | Well Name         |
|------------|-------------------|
| 0402951827 | Unspecified 21-8G |

**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) Reg                     |       | Regulation | egulation (14 CCR) |  |
|--|-------|------------|--------------------|--|
| Statutory Exemption:                                 |       |            |                    |  |
| Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973) | 21169 | 15261 (b)  |                    |  |

Historical Resources.

|  |                             | Ministerial  | 21080 (b)(1) | 15268            |        |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------------|--------|
|  |                             | Declared Emergency   | 21080 (b)(3) | 15269 (a)        |        |
|  |                             | Emergency Projects   | 21080 (b)(4) | 15269 (b) or (c) |        |
| $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$  | Categ                       | orical Exemption:  | 21084        |                  |        |
|  | $\checkmark$                | Class 1: Existing Facilities   |              | 15301            | 1684.1 |
|  |                             | Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction   |              | 15302            |        |
|  |                             | Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures   |              | 15303            |        |
|  | $   \overline{\mathbf{V}} $ | Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land   |              | 15304            | 1684.2 |
|  |                             | Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources   |              | 15307            |        |
|  |                             | Class 8: Protection of the Environment   |              | 15308            |        |
|  |                             | Class 11: Accessory Structures   |              | 15311            |        |
|  |                             | Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit   |              | 15321            |        |
|  |                             | Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) |              | 15330            |        |
|  |                             | Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects   |              | 15333            |        |
|  | Gene                        | ral Exemption ("common sense")   |              | 15061 (b)(3)     |        |
|  | Not a                       | "Project" subject to CEQA  |              | 15378 (b)(2)     |        |
| CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR 15300.2): where project is located (e.g. sensitive environment); Cumulative Impact; Significant Effect due to Unusual Circumstances; Scenic Highways; Hazardous Waste Sites; |                             |  |              |                  |        |

**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 Facility: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project is a repair or minor alteration of existing facilities and will not involve an expansion of use of the oil field, and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review.

The rework is anticipated to increase production from an existing production well by selectively squeezing existing perforations, selectively making new perforations, and installing a new gravel liner. The well will be returned to production after being idle. The well was originally approved for oil and gas purposes. Therefore, there is no expansion of use beyond previous approvals.

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land: The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the condition of land, water, air, and or vegetation within a developed oil field.

No impacts to biological resources are expected. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas and is located within existing facilities. 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 previously approved.

## 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 significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on these exemptions is appropriate.

Consistent with the purposes of Public Resources Code § 3250 et seq and the documentation available for the preliminary review, the proposed project will benefit the environment. In addition, the work under the contracts and any resulting impacts will be temporary in duration. Therefore, the project can be considered exempt from the need for full CEQA review.

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 Program, located at 715 P Street, 18th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <a href="https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov">https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov</a>

| Certified: | Xinyi Hu                                       | Date: |  |
|------------|--|-------|--|
|            | California Geologic Energy Management Division |       |  |
|            | CEQA Program                                   |       |  |