## 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: UIC THUMS 082023-003

Project Applicant: THUMS Long Beach Co.

**Project Location:** Wilmington oilfield; 08/05S/12W/SB; 33.75226974, -118.15860748

## **Project Description:**

The project consists of reworking an existing oil production well by perforating a scab liner, placing cement plugs, perforating casing, and running a gravel pack. No permanent facilities will be constructed, and no expansion of associated facilities will be required. Various mobile temporary equipment will be used including, but not limited to, drilling rig, workover rig, etc., and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to/from the site. There will not be new ground surface disturbance associated with this project.

CalGEM has approved permits for THUMS Long Beach Co. to rework the oil and gas well listed below, in the Wilmington oilfield.

API#	Well Name
0423723338	B-334

**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)	
	Statutory Exemption:				
		Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973)	21169	15261 (b)	
		Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	

Historical Resources.

		Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
		Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
$\square$	Categorical Exemption:		21084		
	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	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)	
<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;					

**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 because this rework could be considered maintenance of the well in order to ensure continued operation by replacing existing, similar equipment (liners, etc.). Specifically, the purpose of the rework is to conduct maintenance to ensure continued operations. The use of the well and capacity of the operation is limited by the existing permits for UIC projects 849-45-001 and 849-48-001 and engineering summary indicates the proposed work is within the scope of those approvals.

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 this is a rework that only involves replacing similar existing equipment and structures (perforations) of an existing production well and does not propose changes to the structure of the well (the wellbore). The location of the well will not change, nor will the purpose of the well, which is production. After the rework, the well will have substantially the same capacity. The use of the well and capacity of the operation is limited by the existing permits for UIC projects 849-45-001 and 849-48-001 and engineering summary indicates the proposed work is within the scope of those approvals.

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR § 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project would be conducted entirely on an existing pad of sufficient space enough to contain all equipment and existing roads to the pad would be utilized with no new disturbance. No impacts to biological

resources are expected. The Project would not disturb any undisturbed areas, and is located within an industrial area and would, as per CalGEM "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 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:	Mikayla Vaba	Date:	
	California Geologic Energy Management Division	<del></del>	
	CEQA Program		