



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Clerk of the Board  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street - Room 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**FROM:** Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District  
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**Project I.D.:** Authority to Construct (ATC) No. 16163  
**Project Title:** Security Fee/Thomas Lease Replacement Tank Heater Burner  
**Project Applicant:** Pacific Coast Energy Acquisitions, LLC.  
**Project Location:** Security Fee/Thomas Lease, North Cat Canyon, Cat Canyon Oil Field, Santa Maria

**Project Description:** The replacement of an uncertified 0.75 MMBtu/Hr Flameco model S820-12 boiler burner with a 1.000 MMBtu/hr tank heater that will be certified upon start-up testing, replacement of the existing 6.20 MMBtu/hr burner Heater Treater #1 with a 2.500 MMBtu/hr ST Johnson low NOx Heater Treater burner, and the validation of an existing 2,000 bbl crude oil stock tank and freewater knockout vessel.

**Exempt Status:** (Check One)

CEQA Section(s):

- Ministerial (Section 21080 (b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (Cite Section: Section 15301 “Existing Facilities” and Section 15302 “Replacement or Reconstruction”)
- Statutory Exemption (Cite section: \_\_\_\_\_)

Other Basis for Exemption:

- General “Common Sense” Exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)
- District CEQA Guidelines, Appendix A (“District List of Exempt Projects”)

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** This project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301. *Existing Facilities* and Section 15302. *Replacement or Reconstruction* of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project corrects violations of District rules and regulatory requirements that were found in July 2021, May 2022, and November 2022 during a routine inspection of equipment and operations at the Security Fee/Thomas Lease at the PCEA North Cat Canyon Stationary Source (SSID 11517). Specifically, the project consists of the replacement of an uncertified 0.75 MMBtu/Hr Flameco model S820-12 boiler burner with a 1.000 MMBtu/hr tank heater that will be certified upon start-up testing, replacement of the existing 6.20 MMBtu/hr burner Heater Treater #1 with a 2.500 MMBtu/hr ST Johnson low NOx Heater Treater burner, and the validation of an existing 2,000 bbl crude oil stock tank and freewater knockout vessel. The project is located at an existing oil field and there is no new development or ground disturbance as part of the project. The project results in negligible or no expansion of existing or former use of the subject equipment and the oil and gas facility. The replacement equipment will be located on the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the existing equipment.

Notice of Exemption from CEQA (continued)

The District reviewed the exceptions to the categorical exemptions pursuant to Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines and none of the exceptions apply to the project. The exception set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a). Location does not apply to Class 1 and Class 2 exemptions. The District considered the applicability of the Section 15300.2(b) exception, relating to cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place, and the District determined that, although there are similar PCEA permit actions that will occur at various leases throughout the Santa Maria Valley region (i.e. ATC 16161, 16162, 16163, 16164, 16165, 16174) the total potential to emit for all of the aforementioned permit actions would not result in criteria pollutant or greenhouse gas emission increases in excess of the District's Board-adopted CEQA thresholds; as such, there would be no significant cumulative impacts. Section 15300.2(c)'s exception does not apply because there are no "unusual circumstances" that apply to the project; the subject equipment and operations are typical for onshore oil and gas operations. Section 15300.2(d)'s exception does not apply because the project is not located near any scenic highways. Section 15300.2(e)'s exception does not apply because the project site is not on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. Section 15300.2(f)'s exception does not apply because the project has no potential of causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, and the project will not involve grading or ground disturbance. Further information and supporting documentation can be found in the District's administrative permit files.

**Date of Project Approval/Permit Issue Date:** May 14, 2024

**District Engineering/Permitting Contact Person:**

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**Signature:**



Alex Economou, Planning Division Manager

Date: 5/13/2024



Aeron Arlin Genet, Air Pollution Control Officer

Clerk of the Board Date and Time Stamp