State of California Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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 122023-001-Multi

Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC

Project Location: Kern, Any Field-Buena Vista (Nose) oil field; 09/32S/25E/MD;

35.16003418/-119.28776550

Project Description: The approved project consists of the maintenance of 12 existing oil and gas production wells. This includes running a scraper and bit to clean out the wells, selectively adding pay, and performing acid treatment. All work would take place on two existing wellpads. and would take approximately 7 to 10 days to complete. Wells pass through UIC project 00000024. Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be needed. 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 production facilities and no new ground surface disturbance will be associated with the reworks.

CalGEM has approved permits for California Resources Elk Hills, LLC to rework the oil and gas wells listed below, in the Any Field-Buena Vista (Nose) oil field.

API#	Well Name	
0403062171	363B-I-10H	
0403062166	315-J-10H	
0403062168	336-J-10H	
0403063583	345-J-10H	
0403063042	354-I-10H	
0403063119	364-J-10H	
0403064514	383-I-10H	
0403063120	321-J-10H	
0403062169	322-J-10H	
0403064483	386-I-10H	·
0403063311	321-N-15H	
0403063392	341-O-15H	·

Exempt Status: As the Lead Agency, CalGEM has determined that the proposed project is exempt from full 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)				
	Statu	tory Exemption:					
		Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973)	21169	15261 (b)			
		Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268			
		Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)			
		Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)			
\square	✓ Categorical Exemption:		21084				
		Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1		
		Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302			
		Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303			
	$\overline{\checkmark}$	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			
	General 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; Historical Resources.

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 rework of 12 existing wells which the operator proposes to clean and selectively add pay in order to continue resource development. Class 1 applies to the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration" of existing facilities involving "negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously". This rework is a maintenance of the wells that involves cleaning out the wells and performing acid treatment in order to improve the performance and condition of the wells. The wells will remain production wells with generally the same production capacity. The rework will not result in an expansion or deepening of the wellbore. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project 00000024 and a

continuation of operations within the confines of the project. Accordingly, there is no expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

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 the proposed project is a rework of 12 existing production wells which are located on two existing wellpads and will have the same purpose and capacity. Class 2 applies to the "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 as the structure replaced." The purpose of the project is to continue resource development by repairing and replacing a steel seal between the casing string on the well. The project does not propose changes to the structure of the well (the wellbore). The location of the wells will not change, nor will the underground structure of the well, or the purpose of the wells, which is production. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project 00000024 and a continuation of operations within the confines of the project. As such, the wells will remain production wells and will have substantially the same capacity.

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 involves minor alterations to existing wells on two existing well pads, resulting in negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air and/or vegetation. Class 4 applies to "drilling operations that result only in minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation." The operator indicates that the project does not involve the construction of permanent facilities, the expansion of existing facilities, or the disturbance of ground surface. The project will take place existing wellpads that are large enough to accommodate all necessary equipment. The operator will utilize existing roads, powerlines, and production infrastructure.

Exceptions to Exemptions:

CalGEM further finds that there are no exceptions to the application of the categorical exemptions (PRC § 21084; 14 CCR § 15300.2 (c)) referenced above. 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 are no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on the exemption(s) is appropriate.

Consistent with the purposes of PRC § 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: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov

Certified:	Mikayla Vaba	Date:	
_	Department of Conservation,		
	Geologic Energy Management Division		
	CEQA Program		