

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 092023-003

**Project Applicant:** THUMS Long Beach Co.

**Project Location:** Los Angeles County, Wilmington Oil Field; 12/05S/13W/SB; 33.75224686/-118.19527435

**Project Description:** The originally approved project consists of reworking an existing oil and gas production well by installing and cementing a casing sleeve. Project passes through UIC project 84939005. Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be needed. No permanent facilities will be constructed. 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 oil field.

API #	Well Name
0403723580	J-144

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

<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			
	<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)	

**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 Facilities (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1);** Class 1, exemption consists of the “operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alterations” of existing structures involving “negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously.” The proposed project is a minor alteration that involves installing and cementing a casing sleeve with the purpose of continuing resource development. The rework does not propose any changes to the wellbore or structure of the well. The well is and would remain a production well with substantially the same production capacity, therefore there is no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed the proposed work is within the scope of the existing UIC project 84939005.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302);** Class 2, exemption 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 proposed project would reconstruct the existing production well by installing and cementing a casing sleeve to continue development and restore production. The project is located on an existing well pad and does not involve the construction or expansion of facilities, including roads. The well is and would remain a production well with substantially the same capacity. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed the proposed work is within the scope of the existing UIC project 84939005.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2);** 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 project is a minor alteration

involving installing and cementing a casing sleeve to an existing structure that involves no temporary or permanent surface disturbance related activities that would affect the existing environmental conditions. The project does not involve construction of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities, including roads. The purpose of the proposed project is the continuation of operations within the confines of an existing UIC project with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land. The proposed activity's impacts would be consistent with or a continuation of the baseline conditions.

**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