

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: 532237_CRPC_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation

Project Location: Kern County, Mount Poso Oil Field; 21/27S/28E/MD;
 Latitude 35.56369400, Longitude -118.96030426

Project Description: The approved project consists of running an inner casing string into an existing water disposal well and cementing the casing to the surface. 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, 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. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The proposed project consists of CalGEM approving one permit for California Resources Production Corporation to rework the water disposal well listed below, in the Mount Poso oilfield.

API #	Well Name
0402947373	Glide WD473

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"/> Statutory Exemption:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project (<i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i>)	21169	15261 (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268
<input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption:	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p>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.</p>				

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): The project is exempt under the Class 1, Existing Facilities exemption because the project involves the maintenance of an existing well that would not expand the existing use of the well. Class 1 consists of the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration" of existing facilities "involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously," including "the alteration of well casing, such as perforating and casing repair" (§ 1684.1). The proposed project would run an inner casing string into an existing water disposal well and cement the casing. This work is done to maintain the integrity of the well and would not change the existing use. The well is and would remain a water disposal well with substantially the same capacity. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 48815017 and would be a continuation of operations within the UIC project.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): The project is exempt under the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction exemption because the project involves

reconstructing the casing of an existing well. Class 2 consists of “replacement or reconstruction” of existing 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” (14 CCR § 15302). The project involves the reconstruction of the casing of an existing water disposal well by running an inner casing string into an existing water disposal well and cementing the casing. The project would be located on an existing well, which is on a previously disturbed well pad. The proposed work is maintenance meant to improve the condition of the well and would not change the existing use. The well is and would remain a water disposal well with substantially the same capacity. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 48815017 and would be a continuation of operations within the UIC project.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): The project is exempt under the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land exemption because the project would have a negligible effect on the surrounding environment. Class 4 consists of 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” (1684.2). The proposed project does not include any surface disturbance related activities that would result in more than negligible effects to the land, water, air, or vegetation. The project would be located on an existing well pad which is large enough accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing roads. The project would not require the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities.

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 can be made available to the public by contacting the CalGEM CEQA Program, located at 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814-3530; by calling (916) 445-9686; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting CEQA@conservation.ca.gov. A copy of this NOE may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified: Mikayla Vaba

Date: 9/13/2024

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division
CEQA Program