

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:** 582953\_CRPC\_OG\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** California Resources Production Corporation

**Project Location:** Kern County, Kern Front Oil Field; 23/28S/27E/MD; Latitude 35.48359680,  
 Longitude -119.03083038

**Project Description:** The approved project consists of reworking an existing oil and gas production well by adding a cement plug. 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 rework. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

CalGEM has approved one permit for California Resources Production Corporation to rework the oil and gas well listed below, in the Kern Front oil field.

API #	Well Name
0402987249	Fano 20A

**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> )	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"/>	<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	
	<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)	
<p><b>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR § 15300.2):</b> 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" (14 CCR § 15301), including "cement plugs" (§ 1684.1). The proposed project involves adding a cement plug back to an existing oil and gas production well in order to continue resource production. The well is and would remain an oil and gas production well with substantially the same production capacity. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 33800001 and would be a continuation of operations within the confines of 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 and would not change the purpose or capacity of the well. Class 2 consists of "replacement or reconstruction" of facilities "located on the same site as the structure replaced" where the structure will have

“substantially the same purpose and capacity” (14 CCR § 15302). The project involves reconstructing the casing of an existing oil and gas well by adding a cement plug. This reconstruction would take place on an existing well which is located on an existing well pad. The well is and would remain an oil and gas production well with substantially the same capacity. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 33800001 and would be a continuation of operations within the confines of 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 involves minor alterations with negligible effects to the surrounding environment. Class 4 involves “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” (§ 1684.2). The proposed project would make negligible changes to an existing oil and gas production well in order to continue resource production. The proposed work does not involve any surface disturbance related activities that could potentially impact the surrounding environment. The work would take place on an existing well pad that can be accessed by existing roads and that can accommodate all necessary equipment. The project does not involve the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Additionally, the project is located in a highly developed oil field, in which large portions of the field are maintained to be devoid of vegetation for ongoing oil and gas operations. As such, the project would not require new ground disturbance that would impact biological resources or their habitat beyond 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 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](mailto: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:** 9/17/2024  
Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division  
CEQA Program