

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:** 527151\_Chevron\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

**Project Location:** Kern County, Kern River Oil Field  
 Latitude 35.44203186, Longitude -118.99906921

**Project Description:** The permitted activity is to rework to conduct maintenance on an existing steamflood well. The rework activities include pressure testing, potential casing repair, and perforating into the current completion zone. The work will occur on existing well pads, and no expansion of the pad will occur. The rework will use existing facilities, and no new grading will occur in any phase of the work.

The permitted activity consists of CalGEM approving one permit for Chevron to rework the well listed below, in the Kern River Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402975903	American Naphtha 6-12C

**Exempt Status:** As the Lead Agency, CalGEM has determined that the permitted activity 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 permitted activity 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)

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)	
<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):** Class 1 applies to the rework. 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." (§ 1684.1.) The project involves the maintenance of a well and does not include modifications or changes to an existing use. The well is and will remain an injection well and will generally have the same capacity and use (steamflood). The proposed activity involves installation of perforations, and potential casing repair, in the well into the same formation. The operator indicates that no permanent facilities would be constructed, and the project would not involve any new ground surface disturbance, including no new roads or other corridors. Therefore, there is no expansion of use beyond that previously existing. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 34000013 and would be a continuation of operations within the UIC project.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302(c)):** Class 2 applies to the proposed activities. Class 2 consists of "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[.]” This is a rework that involves installation of perforations, and potential casing repair, into the same formation of an existing well and does not propose changes to the structure of the well (the wellbore). The location of the well would not change, nor would the underground structure of the well (the wellbore), nor would the purpose of the well, which is steam injection. After the rework, the well would have substantially the same capacity. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of UIC project 34000013 and would be a continuation of operations within the UIC project.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):** Class 4 applies to the proposed activities. Class 4 “consists of 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 would not disturb new areas; no change to surface lands is included in the proposed work. The rework of the well would be conducted entirely on existing pads. All equipment will be staged on existing well pads and access roads. Work locations would be accessed using only existing roads. Accordingly, no impacts to biological resources are expected. The project would not add facilities and would be conducted in order to maintain level of service. The rework and storage of equipment will be temporary, requiring approximately three days. Therefore, the project would result in only minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the land, water, air, or vegetation.

**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 permitted activity 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 permitted activity 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>

