

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: 529146_CRPC_OG

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation

Project Location: Kern County, Belgian Anticline Oil Field; 30/30S/22E/MD;
 Latitude 35.29409409, Longitude -119.65900421

Project Description: The approved project consists of pulling production equipment; pressure testing casing, with the contingency to cement squeeze casing leaks and/or run an inner liner and cement to surface if casing will not pass test; selectively perforate; and re-run production equipment and return to production. This well is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land with federal surface and mineral ownership.

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, 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 oil and gas production well listed below, in the Belgian Anticline Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402925800	Midway-McKittrick A 12-A-30

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)	

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 applies to the proposed project. 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 production well and does not include modifications or changes to an existing use. The well is and will remain a production well and will generally have the same production capacity. The proposed activity involves perforating the well into the same formation with a contingency to cement squeeze casing leaks or run inner liner. 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.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies to the proposed activities. Class 2 generally includes reworks, as the 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.” This is a rework that involves perforating the well into the same formation with a contingency to cement squeeze casing leaks or run inner liner 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 production. After the rework, the well would have substantially the same capacity.

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 in only minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.” (§ 1684.2.) The project would be conducted entirely on an existing pad of sufficient space to contain all equipment and existing roads to the pad would be utilized with no new disturbance. No impacts to biological resources are expected. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The project would not add facilities and would be conducted in order to maintain level of service. Therefore, the proposed 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 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>

