

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: 650919_SPR_UIC_UGS

Project Applicant: Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC (S2641)

Project Location: Kern, Midway-Sunset; 23/31S/22E/MD; 35.22164917 /I -119.58677673

Project Description: The rework is to add perforations within existing wellbore. The proposed activity will involve temporary equipment such as a wireline truck and workover rig.

API #	Well Name
0402985541	Tumbador 8A

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 	<p style="text-align: center;">21169</p> <p>21080 (b)(1)</p> <p>21080 (b)(3)</p> <p>21080 (b)(4)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15261 (b)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15268</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15269 (a)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15269 (b) or (c)</p>

Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land <input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit <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) <input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects <input type="checkbox"/> General Exemption ("common sense")	21084	15301 15302 15303 15304 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330 15333	1684.1 1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15061 (b)(3)	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 "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 gas disposal well and does not include modifications or changes to an existing use. The well will remain a gas disposal well and will generally have the same capacity. 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. CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope

of the UIC project # 464-00-231. Therefore, there is no expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because the rework of the well could be considered "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 rework only involves reconstructing an existing idle gas disposal well by adding perforations returning the well to operation. The NOI does not propose changes to the well's structure (the wellbore). This will maintain the well's existing level of service and operations and return it to its historical operations. CalGEM engineer has reviewed the existing UIC permit UIC project # 464-00-231 and confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project, and the use of the well and its capacity are limited by the existing permit.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies because the rework "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." The rework is intended to maintain the current level of service and will not involve expanding the facility. The proposed activities and temporary equipment will be contained within the existing wellpad. As a result, there will be no new ground disturbances. There are no expected impacts on biological resources as the project will not disturb undisturbed areas.

Exceptions to Exemptions: CalGEM further finds that there are no exceptions to the application of the categorical exemptions (PRC § 21084; 14 CCR § 15300.2) referenced above. For example, 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 exemptions 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; by calling (916) 445-9686; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting CEQA@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified: Charmane Robinson **Date:** 03/17/2025
Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division