

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:** 604201\_Group\_PG&E\_UGS

**Project Applicant:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**Project Location:** San Joaquin County, McDonald Island Gas Field; 25/02N/04E/MD;  
 37.99470520, -121.47901917

**Project Description:** The proposed project would rework four gas storage wells by assessing the casing integrity, replacing the existing wellhead, installing a new production liner and gravel pack, and installing a new tubing string and packer. This work would be done in compliance with CalGEM regulations (14 CCR § 1726 et seq.) to enhance the safety of underground gas storage (UGS) projects. All equipment will be staged and operated within the existing facility footprint and existing roadways will be used for access. This includes all ancillary equipment which may be required such as pump trucks, vac trucks, and casing storage. No new surface construction activities are planned with the rework. No new permanent facilities will be constructed and no expansion to associated facilities or roadways will be required. The project is anticipated to last from March to November 2025. The wells will be returned to service as gas storage wells with no change or expansion of existing use. Waste material will be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste at a facility licensed to accept the waste. Secondary containment will be utilized for liquid HazMat's and workover fluids. No erosion controls will be required as these sites are all graveled. Water will be applied as mitigation for dust suppression from vehicle traffic.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 4 permit(s) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company to rework the wells listed below, in the McDonald Island Gas Field.

API #	Well Name
0407720544	Whiskey Slough 1A-W
0407720173	Whiskey Slough 3-E
0407720258	Turner Cut 17-S
0407720218	Turner Cut 1-S

**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		15302	
<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 consists of the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously." (14 CCR §§

