

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: 583826_Chevron_Rework_UIC

Project Applicant: Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (C5640)

Project Location: Kern, Kern River; 09/29S /28E /MD 35.42287064 / -118.98074341

Project Description: Rework to repair an existing steam flood well by adding perforation from 932' to 972' in current completion zone. Before performing the work, the operator will conduct a pressure test to determine whether there is casing damage. If the test fails, the operator will fix the casing damage as described in the application materials.

API #	Well Name
0403028734	Kern County Land Co. Lease 39 500-9

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)

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)		
☐	Categorical Exemption:	21084			
	☐ Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1	
	☐ Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302		
	☐ Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303		
	☐ Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2	
	☐ Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307		
	☐ Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308		
	☐ Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311		
	☐ Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321		
	☐ Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330		
	☐ Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333		
	☐ General Exemption ("common sense")			15061 (b)(3)	
	☐ 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 fixing of the casing and 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.) This rework involves repairing any damage discovered by the pressure test consistent with the descriptions of the repair work in the application and adding perforations to an existing well within the same completion interval to return it to operation. This proposed Project is a rework that will maintain an existing level of service and operations. The well will return to the same operations as historical operations, which is production. This rework will use temporary equipment, such as a workover rig, confirmed to fit within the existing wellpad. This proposed Project is a minor alteration involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond previously existing. CalGEM engineer has confirmed the use of the well and capacity of the operation is limited by the existing permits for UIC project code 340-00-013 and the engineering summary indicates the proposed work is within the scope of those approvals.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because the rework and any other work to repair the casing 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 involves replacing perforations by adding perforations within the same interval as used previously to return to operation. Any damage to the casing discovered by the pressure test would involve reconstruction as described in the application. 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 340-00-013 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 to the rework and any repairs based on a failed casing test. 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." The proposed work is located within an industrial area with actively permitted oil and gas operations. Kern River Oilfield is a densely developed, existing oil field with ongoing surface maintenance. The proposed work does not include any changes to the surface or new grading. The proposed rework is intended to maintain the current level of service without expanding the facility. All rework activities and temporary equipment will be contained within the existing wellpad, so there will be no new ground disturbances. There will be no changes to the surface as part of the proposed work, and no new grading will occur.

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; 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:** 01/03/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division
CEQA Program