

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:** 429942\_Berry\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Berry Petroleum Company, LLC

**Project Location:** Kern, Midway-Sunset; 24/31S/22E/MD; 35.20964768 / -119.55885778

**Project Description:** A rework to repair existing perforations from 540'-1274' returning the existing steam flood well back to operation.

API #	Well Name
0403064066	Main Camp GH-13U

**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> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects	21169  21080 (b)(1) 21080 (b)(3) 21080 (b)(4)	15261 (b)  15268 15269 (a) 15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Categorical Exemption:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities	21084	15301	1684.1

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<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)	

**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 proposed Project is to repair an existing steamflood well by selectively patching perforations from 540'-1274' within the existing well structure. 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. This rework will use temporary equipment, such as a workover rig, confirmed to fit within the existing wellpad. The existing facility has established access road Hwy 33 to transport equipment and materials. Therefore, there will be no expansion of the existing facility. 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 464-00-396, 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 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 repairing existing perforations from 540'-1274' within an existing steam flood well. The NOI does not propose changes to the well's structure (the

wellbore) and the current well type. 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 464-00-396 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. The well-pad will accommodate all necessary equipment, operations, and is regularly maintained to prevent overgrowth. 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](mailto:CEQA@conservation.ca.gov). The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

**Certified:**

*Char'Mane Robinson*

Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division

**Date**

: 01/03/2025