

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:** 544815\_Grouped\_Macpherson\_OG\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Macpherson Oil Company (M0950)

**Project Location:** Kern, Round Mountain; 19/28S/29E/MD; 35.48297760 / -118.88949320

**Project Description:** This project consists of five rework FIDs that involve repairs, adding perforations, and abandoning lower zones. Jewett 3 940 (0403029175) is a rework to repair casing and add perforations. After the rework the waterflood well will be returned to injection. Jewett 3 950 (0403033649) is a rework to re-abandon the Vedder formation, run the inner casing, and return the well to injection. USL 20 1925 (0403062595) involves running an inner casing and return the well to injection. Both USL 18 151 (0403043849) and USL 18 171 (0403041751) are reworks of production wells to abandon the lower Vedder zone. The proposed project duration will be approximately five days per well and will use temporary equipment such as a workover rig.

API #	Well Name
0403029175	Jewett 3 940
0403033649	Jewett 3 950
0403043849	USL 18 151
0403041751	USL 18 171
0403062595	USL 20 1925

**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)

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<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 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 proposes to reconstruct and repair five existing wells. These five existing wells 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 well pads. These wellpads will accommodate temporary equipment, operation, and personnel parking. 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 codes 628-09-021, 628-09-023, 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 and any repair work to the casing 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 and repairing five existing wells. NOI 544815 repairs casing and adds perforations to return the waterflood well to injection. NOI 545849 reconstruction of re-abandon Vedder, running inner casing, and return to injection. NOI 548143 runs the inner casing to return to injection, while NOIs 547034 and 547038 are reworks to abandon the lower Vedder zone. These NOIs do not propose any changes to the well's structure (the wellbore). It does not propose any expansion or changes in existing use for all five existing wells. 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 permits 628-09-021, 628-09-023 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 permits.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies to the rework because the rework activities will not affect the condition of the surrounding area. 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." Round Mountain is an established oil field. This proposed project rework is to reconstruct and repair five existing wells. The rework is intended to maintain the current level of service and will not expand or significantly alter the existing 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 will be no impact on listed species, and no sensitive receptors are within 3,200 feet of the project area. 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:** *Charmane Robinson* **Date:** 01/16/2025  
Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division