

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: 589144_ Crimson _UIC

Project Applicant: Crimson Resource Management Corp. (C9035)

Project Location: Kern, Midway-Sunset; 25/31S/22E/MD; 35.20420500 / -119.55694700

Project Description: The project involves an existing cyclic steam well used to produce oil and gas and converting it into an oil and gas production well. The operator has indicated that the proposed change does not require any mechanical alterations. The proposed rework is to replace the damaged liner to continue production. The project is expected to last approximately five days and will utilize temporary equipment, such as a production rig.

API #	Well Name
0403060041	Unspecified 18-10

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)	
<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	21084	15301 15302 15303 15304 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330 15333	1684.1 1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p>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.</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 involves reworking an existing cyclic steam well by replacing the damaged liner without mechanical alterations. A CalGEM district engineer confirmed the historical production of the 18-10 well from February 2019 to October 2024. As a result, the proposed change in well type is considered negligible. Proposed rework activities include replacing a damaged liner to restore well 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. A CalGEM district engineer has confirmed the use of the well and capacity of the operation is limited by the existing permits for UIC project code 464-00-038 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 proposed rework consists of pulling the existing liner and replacing it with the same size liner at the same approved depth. This will maintain the well's existing level of service and operations and return it to its historical operations. A CalGEM district engineer has reviewed the existing UIC permit 464-00-038 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 existing facilities, which are located in within a densely developed oil field setting. The existing proposed project site has existing roads to provide access to the project site; therefore, no new access roads are required for the project. The proposed activities and temporary equipment will be contained within the existing wellpad. 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

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division

Date

: 01/27/2025