

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:** 624784\_SPR\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC (S2641)

**Project Location:** Kern, Cymric; 06/30/22E/MD; 35.342621/ -119.659388

**Project Description:** New Drill for an observation well consisting of drilling a new borehole to total depth and installing a cemented casing string from total depth to the surface. The purpose of this observation well is to collect temperature data for monitoring purposes on an ongoing basis. The duration of the construction phase of the proposed project will be approximately four days using equipment such as a drilling rig.

API #	Well Name
N/A	Star Fee OB-3

**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)

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Categorical Exemption:</b>	21084		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 6:</b> Information Collection		15306	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
	<input checked="" 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 4: Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies because the proposed project "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 project is located within an active oilfield. The proposed project involves constructing a new observation well on an established well pad for data collection purposes. The proposed drilling activities and associated temporary equipment will be contained within the existing wellpad. 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.

Class 6, Information Collection (14 CCR § 15306.): Class 6 applies and consists of "basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes only, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded". The proposed project involves constructing a new observation well on an

established well pad for data collection purposes. This well will provide measurable data to analyze overburden reservoirs and temperature trends. The temperature trends will confirm any reservoir leakage and identify the necessary remedial actions for nearby wells. The project is intended for data collection and research on an ongoing basis. The Class 6 exemption further applies because the data collection will be used to inform part of a study that may, depending on the research results, lead to an action which has not yet been approved or funded.

Classes 7 and 8, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment (14 CCR §§ 15307, 15308): Class 7 and Class 8 exemptions apply. The exemptions consist of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of a natural resource or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. Adhering to CalGEM Order to Perform Remedial Work, No.1296, the proposed project will drill a new observation well on an established well pad for data collection to assist with subsidence prevention and management. Therefore, the proposed project involves new observation to ensure healthy operations to address subsidence issues for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

**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**

: 02/13/2025