

State of California  
 Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation  
 GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**California Environmental Quality Act  
 Notice of Exemption**

**To:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
 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:** 653706\_Chevron\_O&G\_UIC

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

**Project Location:** Fresno, Coalinga; 25/20S/14E/MD; 36.15449524/-120.39570618; From the WC SOUTHEAST COR Of 25 1465.0000 E & 1318.0000 S

**Project Description:** Chevron proposes to rework 1 existing well in the existing and developed Coalinga Oil field to continue oil and gas resource development. Work will include conducting a casing integrity test followed by potentially setting a bridge plug, cutting off damaged casing, welding on new casing, testing blowout prevention unit, changing out the wellhead, performing a tieback, and/or removing a retrievable bridge plug. Well will be within the existing completion zone operating as an oil and gas producer. Water used during the rework operations will be metered, reclaimed produced water, approximately 800 barrels, for each well. The work will not increase the depth of the well.

Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be utilized. Various mobile, temporary equipment will also be used including, but not limited to, backhoe, crane and rework rig, and vehicles to transport personnel and material to/from the site. No new production facilities or new ground disturbance will take place. All equipment will be staged within the project boundary on existing well pads and access roads. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The well is located within an active oil field.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit(s) for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (C5640) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Coalinga Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0401925591	H7-9JV

**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)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.. <b>Statutory Exemption:</b></li> <li>.. Ongoing Project (<i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i>)</li> <li>.. Ministerial</li> <li>.. Declared Emergency</li> <li>.. Emergency Projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21169</li> <li>21080 (b)(1)</li> <li>21080 (b)(3)</li> <li>21080 (b)(4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15261 (b)</li> <li>15268</li> <li>15269 (a)</li> <li>15269 (b) or (c)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Categorical Exemption:</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 2:</b> Replacement or Reconstruction</li> <li><b>Class 3:</b> New                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.. Construction/Conversion of Small Structures</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land</li> <li>.. <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources</li> <li>.. <b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment</li> <li>.. <b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures</li> <li>.. <b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit</li> <li><b>Class 30:</b> Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)</li> <li>.. <b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21084</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15301</li> <li>15302</li> <li>15303</li> <li>15304</li> <li>15307</li> <li>15308</li> <li>15311</li> <li>15321</li> <li>15330</li> <li>15333</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1684.1</li> <li>1684.2</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.. <b>General Exemption</b> ("common sense")</li> </ul>		15061 (b)(3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.. <b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b></li> </ul>		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):** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project is a repair or minor alteration of existing facilities and will not involve an expansion of use of the oil field, and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review. Additionally, in accordance with 14 CCR § 1684.1, the Class 1 exemption consists of operation, repair, maintenance, minor alternation of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. The proposed work consists of altering the existing casing of an existing wellbore in order to return the well back to oil and gas production, its intended use. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 15000035, as permitted by the project approval letter (PAL).

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):** Class 2 applies because it consists of "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 as the structure replaced." The proposed work will be done on an existing wellbore, located on an existing well pad. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 15000035, as permitted by the PAL.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):** Class 4 exemption applies. Class 4 consists of "drilling operations that result only in minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.") The proposed project would be conducted entirely on an existing pad with enough space to contain all equipment. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The proposed project is located within an active oil field. The rework would not expand the facilities.

**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.

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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division