

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 **From:** Department of Conservation
State Clearinghouse 715 P Street, MS 1803
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento, CA 95814 **Contact:** CEQA@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 497234_08006009_CREH_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC (C0880)

Project Location: Kern, Buena Vista; 36/31S/23E/MD; 35.18582916/-119.45507813; 2992
from SE corner of section 36

Project Description: CREH proposes to rework 6-5W-36B in the Buena Vista field to improve well performance and/or condition. The proposed operations are to test casing, repair by cement squeeze or running 5 1/2" inner casing (if needed), add perforations (2500' to 3250'), then return the well to injection.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for California Resources Elk Hills, LLC (C0880) to rework the well listed below, in the Buena Vista Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403034755	Unspecified 6-5W-36B

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)	
..	Statutory Exemption: .. Ongoing Project (<i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i>)	21169	15261 (b)	
..	Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	
..	Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
..	Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption:	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
	Class 3: New			
..	Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
..	Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
..	Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
..	Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
..	Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
..	Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
..	Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
..	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
..	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p><u>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions</u> (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): 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 operations are to test casing, repair by cement squeeze or running 5 1/2" inner casing (if needed), add perforations (2500' to 3250'), then return the well to injection within UIC project 08006009. Operations have no modifying effect on the UIC Project. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 08006009, 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[.]" No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 08006009, as permitted by the project approval letter (PAL).

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies. 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 industrial area. Therefore, 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." No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required. There will not be new ground surface disturbance associated with this project.

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. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

