

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:** 618028\_CREH\_OG

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

**Project Location:** Kern County, Buena Vista field; Sec 26/ 31S/ 23E/ MD; 35.20624000/ -  
 119.47995400

**Project Description:** CREH proposes to rework 623-26B, an existing oil and gas well located in the Buena Vista area. The proposed rework is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. The rework consists of adding perforations. The proposed rework will take approximately 7 to 10 days to complete.

Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be needed. Various mobile temporary equipment will be used including, but not limited to, workover rig and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to/from the site. No production facilities and no new ground surface disturbance will be associated with the rework. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The proposed rework is located on existing, maintained well pads within the Buena Vista Hills Oilfield. Reworked wells will fit into existing infrastructure. Existing operations are comprised of existing wells, single and multi-well pads and support oil and gas infrastructure, such as production pipelines, powerlines, access roads, production facilities and non-oil and gas facilities such as the Kern County Landfill. The undisturbed areas within the Oilfield contain scattered areas of saltbush scrub and non-native grassland habitat. The rework activities will not require new disturbance.

API #	Well Name
0403063565	Unspecified 623-26B

**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 (pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973)</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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15061 (b)(3)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.. <b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15378 (b)(2)</li> </ul>	

**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.

**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 Facility (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, ore topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. Conduct biological pre-activity survey 30 days prior to the start of work; confirm that no wildlife is present. If none, proceed with work. If present, contact CRC HSE to implement wildlife protocols. After wildlife concerns are addressed, proceed with work. Pull existing Production equipment. Selectively perforate from 4042' to 6322' within the current Monterey Antelope Shale Formation. Run production equipment. Return to production. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be as permitted by the project approval letter (PAL).

**Class 2 – Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR §15302 Class).** 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 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](mailto:CEQA@conservation.ca.gov). The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 3/18/2025

Signed by:  
*Mila Galinski*  
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Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division