

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: 644813_CRPC_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Prod Corp

Project Location: Kern, Mount Poso; 09/27S/28E/MD; 35.58942100/-118.96632200; and 0-0-9-27S-28E-0-0

Project Description:

CRPC proposes to rework Vedder 1009WI in the Mt Poso field to improve well performance and/or condition. This is to rework an existing waterflood well as part of the approved UIC project #48815061. The scope of work involves installation of a bridge plug, packer and tubing, acidization of existing perforations, and installation of an inner casing string cemented in place. The most recent Project Application Letter (PAL) was issued on 04/19/2018. This rework will not change the scope of the approved UIC project. The current existing land use (and surrounding land use) of the proposed project is in an active oil field consisting of oil and gas wells. The rework will not add new perforations or change the completion zone.

Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be needed. No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required. Various mobile temporary equipment will be used including, but not limited to, workover rig, etc., and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to/from the site. There will not be new ground surface disturbance associated with this project. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The proposed project is on an existing well pad. The current existing land use (and surrounding land use) of the proposed project is in an active oil field consisting of oil and gas wells.

API #	Well Name
0403061511	Vedder 1009WI

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)	

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 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, ore topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. This project involves altering the existing casing and/or wellhead and returning the well to its previous use (injection). Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC project 48815061, as permitted by the 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 project would make minor alterations to one existing well by installing an inner casing string and returning its use back to injection. The work will be done on an existing wellbore, which is located on an existing well pad. The project will not expand operations or change the existing use of the well. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC 48815061, as permitted by the PAL.

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): 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.’ (14 CCR § 1684.2; see also 14 CCR § 15304.) 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 active oil field.

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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>

DocuSigned by:
Mila Galenski

Certified:

Date:

3/11/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division