

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:** 678781\_Group\_Chevron\_OG\_UIC

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

**Project Location:** Kern, Midway-Sunset; 25/32S/23E/MD; I35.11461202/-119.45247662;  
2547.02 North 1516.68 West from the SE Corner of Section 25

**Project Description:** Chevron proposes to rework 3 existing wells in the existing and heavily developed Midway-Sunset Oil field to continue oil and gas resource development. Due to the proximity of wells to each other in an already disturbed densely developed and active Midway-Sunset Oilfield they are being grouped together. Potential work activities include conducting casing integrity tests, setting retrievable bridge plugs, modifying or replacing the wellhead, adding perforations, repairing casings, and testing the blowout prevention units. All perforations will be within the existing completion zone. Water used during the rework operations will be metered, reclaimed produced water, approximately 750 barrels for each well. The work will not increase the depth of any well. UIC Project #46400058 is a Steamflood project in the Monarch (Spellacy) Zone, Midway Sunset Oil Field, Kern County, California. It includes continuous steam injection and cyclic steam wells. The most recent Project Approval Letter (PAL) was issued on 07/11/1974, and the most recent non-expansion infill package was approved 05/12/2022. There are no proposed changes to UIC Project #46400058.

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

The project is in unincorporated Kern County, is not within City limits and does not extend beyond the designated oil field boundary. The project locations are located on

a relatively flat, open area and 100% disturbed in a densely developed, existing oil field. No change to the surface is included in the proposed work. No new grading and no new disturbance will occur in any phase of the work. The proposed location boundaries for work will encompass an area of 100' x 200' (20,000 square feet or 0.47 acres) each. The work will not expand the use of well pads, roads, staging areas or pipeline. No new facilities will be constructed. Upon completion wells will continue to utilize the existing facilities it currently uses. All equipment will be staged within the project location boundary on existing well pads and access roads.

API #	Well Name
0403065098	Virginia 45
0403029625	Virginia 65B
0403063530	Virginia 66A

**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)	
"	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

Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
.. 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 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, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. The proposed work involves altering the existing casing and/or wellheads of existing wellbores to address potential integrity issues and restore productivity. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 46400058, 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 conducted on existing wellbores, located on existing well pads. The project will not expand operations or change the existing use of the wells. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 46400058, 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 reworks 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by: Mila Galenski Date: 4/2/2025  
Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division