

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:** 670744\_Chevron\_OG\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

**Project Location:** Fresno, Coalinga, East, Extension; 18/ 20S/16E/Base; 36.18503571/ -  
120.27484894; and Fr ctr 330 Nly 330 Wly

**Project Description:** Chevron USA Inc. proposes to rework an existing well. The purpose is to repair the casing of a well. The well is located on private land and has federal mineral ownership. The well will operate within the existing completion zone and continue to operate consistent with past and current use. No expansion of use or modification from earlier permit will occur. Water used during the rework operation will be metered, reclaimed produced water, approximately 300 barrels. The work will not increase the depth of any well. The proposed rework falls under Group B of CalGEM's rework exemptions guidance document published in December 2023. Proposed rework activity will take approximately 3 days.

Potential work activities include conducting casing integrity (CIT) tests, if CIT fails, straddle test casing to identify casing hole depths and leak/injection rate, setting retrievable bridge plugs, changing out wellhead if deemed necessary, repairing the casing, and testing the blowout prevention units. If damage is found, a tieback may be performed. Perform new CIT, return well to operation. Existing Zone: Lodo-Gatchell Sand, Target Zone: Lodo-Gatchell Sand.

Temporary equipment to be used includes, but not limited to, a workover rig, crew room, and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to and from the work site. No 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 Fresno County, is not within City limits and does not extend beyond designated oil field boundary.

The project location is flat, 100% disturbed, and located within 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 boundary for work will encompass an area of 100' x 200' (20,000 square feet or 0.47 acres). The work will not expand the well pad, roads, staging areas or pipeline. No new facilities will be constructed. Upon completion, the well will continue to utilize the

existing facilities it currently uses. All equipment will be staged within the project boundary on an existing well pad and utilizing existing access roads. The current existing land use (and surrounding land use) of the proposed project is an active oil field consisting of oil and gas wells.

Biological review – no impacts to wildlife are anticipated. The well is located entirely within the existing well pad, with no expansion required. Chevron will conduct a pre-activity survey prior to work commencing. No impacts to cultural and paleontological resources are expected to occur. The rework will not result in the change of existing use or existing facilities. Other potential environmental impacts – none, since no new disturbance is proposed. The project is located on property operated by Chevron in Fresno County. Fresno County does not issue permits for oil and gas wells.

API #	Well Name
0401904617	46

**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)	
..	<b>Statutory Exemption:</b>			
..	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"/>	<b>Categorical Exemption:</b>	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 2:</b> Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
	<b>Class 3:</b> New			
..	Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources		15307	

Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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>		15308	
		15311	
		15321	
		15330	
.. <b>General Exemption</b> ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
.. <b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b>		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 wellhead of an existing wellbore 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 15203008, 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 an existing wellbore, 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 Project 15203008, 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.

**Classes 7 and 8 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment (14 CCR § 15307, 15308):** Class 7 and 8 exemptions apply. The exemptions are for "actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of a natural resource or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment." The proposed project involves remedial/rework activities to address a known well integrity issue that requires swift action for the protection of natural resources and the environment.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 4/10/2025  

Signed by:  
  
 Department of Conservation,  
 Geologic Energy Management Division