

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 & 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:** 649694\_Hathaway\_Group\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Hathaway LLC

**Project Location:** Kern County, Mount Poso Oil Field; 32/26S/28E/MD; Latitude 35.62352371, Longitude -118.98274231

**Project Description:** The proposed project consists of converting two oil and gas production wells to water disposal wells and to initiate water injection activities under UIC Project 48815062. This project will utilize existing roads, power lines, and production/injection facilities. Existing pipelines will also be utilized, with tie-ins to the proposed new wells. 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 consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving two permits for Hathaway LLC to rework the wells listed below, in the Mount Poso Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402967529	Blackfoot 157
0402967509	B.N.B. 256

**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)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Statutory Exemption:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing Project ( <i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i> )	21169	15261 (b)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	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	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 30:</b> Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exemption</b> ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b>		15378 (b)(2)	
<p><b>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR § 15300.2):</b> 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):**

Class 1 consists of the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously." This includes "remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells involving the alteration of well casing, such as perforating and casing repair, removal, or replacement; installation or removal of downhole production or injection equipment, cement plugs, bridge plugs, and packers set to isolate production or injection intervals." (14 CCR § 1684.1.) The proposed project would make minor alterations to wells, resulting in negligible expansion of use beyond that existing previously. The proposed project involves updating the existing project approval letter (PAL) and converting two existing oil and gas production wells, one

idled, to injection within the scope of the revised PAL. The district engineers found that the conversions will not involve complicated modifications, deepening, or reconstruction of the wells and that well work will be minimal. District engineers and CalGEM CEQA staff determined that any environmental impacts of the proposed project would be negligible. The water board provided a letter of concurrence for the proposed project.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):**

Class 2 consists of the "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[.]" (14 CCR § 15302.) The proposed project would reconstruct the casing and wellbores of existing wells. The work would take place on existing wellbores and on existing well pads. The proposed project involves updating the existing project approval letter (PAL) and converting two existing oil and gas production wells, one idled, to injection within the scope of the revised PAL. The district engineers found that the conversions will not involve complicated modifications, deepening, or reconstruction of the wells and that well work will be minimal. District engineers and CalGEM CEQA staff determined that any environmental impacts of the proposed project would be negligible. The water board provided a letter of concurrence for the proposed project.

**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.) The proposed project involves negligible or no vegetation removal, expansion of the existing well pads, or ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be no surface disturbance related activities that would significantly disturb the surrounding environment. The proposed project involves updating the existing project approval letter (PAL) and converting two existing oil and gas production wells, one idled, to injection within the scope of the revised PAL. The district engineers found that the conversions will not involve complicated modifications, deepening, or reconstruction of the wells and that well work will be minimal. District engineers and CalGEM CEQA staff determined that any environmental impacts of the proposed project would be negligible. The water board provided a letter of concurrence for the proposed 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:**    *Mikayla Vaba* **Date:**    4/15/2025  
  Department of Conservation,  
  Geologic Energy Management Division