

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: 467499_Group_Chevron_OG_UIC

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

Project Location: Kern, Cymric; 06/30S/22E/MD; 35.35333600 / -119.65316900

Project Description: The proposed project is to test casings of three existing wells and possibly repair by squeezing cement, selectively add perforations in the same zone, and rework the wells which include one injection and two steam flood wells converting into three oil and gas production wells using temporary equipment, such as a rework rig.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving three permit(s) for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (C5640) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Cymric Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403057868	Sea Breeze 3-1AI
0403048814	Sea Breeze 3-1I
0403057869	Sea Breeze 3-2AI

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"/>	Statutory Exemption:			
	<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"/>	Categorical Exemption:	21084		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p>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.</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 applies to the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration" of existing facilities involving "negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously" (§ 1684.1). The proposed project involves converting one injection well and two steam flood wells into three oil and gas production wells. The proposed activities are deemed negligible because a district engineer has confirmed that converting to production wells will require less servicing and maintenance and will not increase capacity. In addition, the proposed work

consists of testing, cementing, and perforating casing in the same zone. These are negligible changes that would not result in significant impacts to surface or subsurface conditions. The district engineer also confirmed that the proposed work will have no modifying effect on UIC project 19024021. Therefore, the conversions would be a negligible change in use.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because the rework of the well could be considered “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.” The proposed project includes reconstructing one injection well and two steam flood existing wells into three oil and gas production wells by testing, cementing, and perforating casing in the same zone to continue resource production. There will be no expansion of the existing structures and no construction of new facilities. CalGEM engineer has reviewed the existing UIC PAL 190-24-021 and confirmed that the proposed work has no modifying effect on the UIC Project. Therefore, the work would not substantially change the purpose or capacity of the wells.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies because the rework “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.” The proposed project involves converting one injection well and two steam flood wells into three oil and gas production wells. The proposed drilling activities and associated temporary equipment will be contained within the existing wellpad. The proposed activities will not expand the well pads, roads, staging areas, and pipelines. Once completed, the wells will continue to operate using the existing infrastructure. There will be no construction of new production facilities and no new grading. As a result, there will be no new ground disturbances. There are no expected impacts on biological resources as the project will not disturb undisturbed areas.

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://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified:

Char'Mane Robinson

Date: 04/16/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division