

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: 676222_CRPC_OG_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC)

Project Location: Kern County, Mount Poso Oil Field; 16/27S/28E/MD;
35.58321762, -118.95976257

Project Description: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC) proposes to sidetrack one existing oil & gas well to restore to original functionality. The work is designed to support the continuation of oil and gas resource development in the area. The project includes partial abandonment of the existing damaged wellbore, sidetrack drilling and subsurface completion of the well in accordance with California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) regulations, and re-installation of various aboveground piping and equipment to connect the well site to the existing infrastructure. The well would continue to operate consistent with past and current use. There would be no expansion of the existing well pad, roads, staging areas, or pipelines. No new grading would occur in any undisturbed areas.

The proposed project consists of CalGEM approving a permit for CRPC to sidetrack the well listed below, in the Mount Poso Oil Field in Kern County.

API #	Well Name
0403022076	Security 83C

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).

is within the scope of UIC projects 48815017 and 48815061 and would be a continuation of operations within the confines of the UIC projects as permitted by the project approval letters (PALs). Therefore, the proposed project would not change the existing facilities and would not expand the existing use.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 exemption applies because it 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[.]” Examples of Class 2 include, but are not limited to, “[r]eplacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.” (14 CCR § 15302.) The proposed project is the sidetrack, or replacement, of the existing wellbore which is needed to restore the well to original functionality. According to a CalGEM engineer, the proposed work is within the scope of UIC projects 48815017 and 48815061 and would be a continuation of operations within the confines of the UIC projects as permitted by the PALs. Therefore, the proposed project would consist of sidetrack work on the same site and would not change the capacity of the well.

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.” (14 CCR § 1684.2; see also 14 CCR § 15304.) The proposed sidetrack work would be conducted entirely on an existing pad, and no expansion of the existing well pad, roads, staging areas, or pipelines are proposed. The proposed project is located within a developed oil field. Therefore, the proposed project would result in only minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.

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: Nicole Trezza **Date:** 5/6/2025
 Department of Conservation,
 Geologic Energy Management Division