



**NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Geologic Energy Management Division**

California Environmental Quality Act CEQA Operator Form

Revised Form: April 4, 2025

The **purpose** of this form is to assist the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) in determining its California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Agency Role and the type of environmental review that CalGEM must conduct for a proposed project under CEQA (for projects not submitted in WellSTAR). This form also serves to assist Operators in understanding the CEQA review process for a proposed project, including the information and documents CalGEM typically needs, along with the NOI or Application, to comply with CEQA. To expedite the CEQA review process, please submit this form, answering all questions as completely as possible, and the documents identified in this form, to the extent applicable, when submitting the NOI or Application.

Instructions on how to complete this form are in Section VII. at the end of the document. For additional information, you may access CalGEM's CEQA webpage at

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>

I. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Operator / Applicant		Consultant	
Company		Company	
Address		Address	
Contact		Contact	
Title		Title	
Phone		Phone	
Email		Email	

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Information Summary	Oil or Geothermal Field (if any)			
	County <input type="checkbox"/> Has jurisdiction		City/ Community <input type="checkbox"/> Has jurisdiction	
	CalGEM District <input type="checkbox"/> Northern <input type="checkbox"/> Central <input type="checkbox"/> Southern https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/calgem_contacts.aspx			
Ownership (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral	<input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal <input type="checkbox"/> Surface <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral
Project Type (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> O&G <input type="checkbox"/> UGS <input type="checkbox"/> Observation <input type="checkbox"/> Stratigraphic <input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> New Drill <input type="checkbox"/> Rework <input type="checkbox"/> Sidetrack <input type="checkbox"/> P&A <input type="checkbox"/> Deepening	<input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal Exploratory Project <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal Field Development Project <input type="checkbox"/> Non-commercial Low-temperature Geothermal Well <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Low-temperature Geothermal Well <input type="checkbox"/> High-temperature Geothermal Well	

UIC UGS Project Code	
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Project Well List:

If the number of wells exceeds the space provided, submit a well list with this form.

WellSTAR Form ID #	API #	Well Name	LAT*	LONG*

*Latitude and Longitude in NAD 83

III. CEQA LEAD AGENCY

Provide Local or State CEQA Lead Agency information below, as applicable.

Local or State Agency Name	
Address	
Contact Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

Was an environmental document prepared for this project?

☐ **YES** CalGEM or another agency prepared the environmental document (ND, MND, EIR)

Fill out the CEQA Lead Agency Document Information section below.

☐ **NO** The Lead Agency found this activity to be ... (check all that apply)

☐ Exempt (provide a copy of the Notice of Exemption (NOE) if available); or

☐ No environmental document was prepared;

If a NOE is not available, below provide information regarding communication with the local planning/community development department, special district, or state agency (below) to show that discussion of CEQA documentation they may have on file occurred.

Contact Name _____ Phone # _____

Date of Conversation _____ and/or Email _____

CEQA Lead Agency Document Information

Environmental Document Title		
State Clearinghouse (SCH) Number		
Environmental Document Type	<input type="checkbox"/> ND <input type="checkbox"/> MND <input type="checkbox"/> EIR (draft and final) <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute document (CEC, Geothermal)	<input type="checkbox"/> + Supplement <input type="checkbox"/> + Subsequent <input type="checkbox"/> + Addendum <input type="checkbox"/> + Recirculated
Date Document was Certified or Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified EIR Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted ND/MND Date:

Page numbers applicable to the Project Scope	
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IV. NEPA FEDERAL AGENCY (If any)

Provide NEPA Agency information below, as applicable:	
Federal Agency Name	
Address	
Contact Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

NEPA Federal Agency Document(s)		
Federal Nexus?	Does the project have a federal component (e.g., involve(s) federal mineral rights and/or federal surface rights)? If no, skip this section because it does not apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Documents Submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Sundry Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion <input type="checkbox"/> EA <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI <input type="checkbox"/> Determination of NEPA Adequacy <input type="checkbox"/> EIS	
NEPA Number		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
NEPA Lead Agency		
Record of Decision	Was a Record of Decision/Decision Record submitted and approved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Application for Permit to Drill		

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name	
Applicant Name	
Project Proposal	
Project Location	

Environmental Setting:	
Local Agency Requirements	

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Documents that are typically needed to conduct a CEQA review of a project. Note that this is not an exhaustive list, nor is every document on the list required for every project.

Environmental Documents		Attached to Form	Weblink	URL
1.	CEQA Project Description	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Approved Local Permit for Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.	Environmental Document(s) (ND, MND, EIR) Provide draft and final versions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.	Additional Environmental Document(s) Supplement, Subsequent, Addendum, Recirculated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.	Biological Assessment or Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Archeology Assessment or Survey <i>(May be protected information. DO NOT add to WellSTAR. Send to the CEQA@conservation.ca.gov along with the Form ID number associated with your project)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.	Notice of Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.	Notice of Exemption (NOE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.	CEC Substitute Document (for geothermal projects)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NEPA & Federal Documents		Attached to Form	Weblink	URL
11.	Sundry Notice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.	Categorical Exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.	EA, FONSI, EIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.	Record of Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

VII. FORM INSTRUCTIONS

By completing & submitting this Form to CalGEM, you are declaring the information herein is accurate & true, to the best of your knowledge.

I. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Operator / Applicant: Enter name and all contact information.

Consultant: Enter name and all contact information.

II. Project Information

Project Information Summary

Oil or Geothermal Field (if any): If the project is in an oil, gas or geothermal field, list the field. If a project is in more than field, list all fields. If the applicant does not know if a project is within an oil, gas or geothermal field, check using WellFinder: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/#/wellfinder/>

County project is located within: List the county where the project is located. If a project is in more than one county, list all counties. If the county has jurisdiction over the project (issues permits, prepares CEQA documents) check the jurisdiction box.

City/Community: If a project is located within a city or community, list the city or community. If a project is in more than one city or community, list all cities/communities. If the city has jurisdiction over the project (issues permits, prepares CEQA documents) check the jurisdiction box.

CalGEM District: Check the box that corresponds to the District in which the project is located. If not known, check District boundaries by accessing https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/calgem_contacts.aspx.

Ownership: Check the boxes that correspond to the surface and mineral rights for the project.

Project Type: Check the box(es) that correspond to the type of activity being applied for.

Abbreviations used: O&G (Oil & Gas), UGS (Underground Gas Storage), UIC (Underground Injection Control), P&A (Plug and Abandonment).

Geothermal Exploratory Project is a project composed of not more than 6 wells which are drilled to extract information for a future geothermal field development project. Per Public Resources Code section 3715.5, the applicant may ask the local agency (city/county) to be lead agency for the project in lieu of CalGEM. The request must be made in writing to the local agency and CalGEM. The local agency's agreement to assume lead agency responsibilities must be in writing.

Geothermal Field Development Project is composed of geothermal wells which are necessary to support the construction, or continuing operation, of a geothermal power plant.

Non-commercial Low-temperature Geothermal Well is a well drilled for the purpose of exploring for, evaluating, or producing geothermal resources that have a temperature below the boiling point of water at the altitude of occurrence for private use only.

Commercial Low-temperature Geothermal Well is a well drilled for the purpose of exploring for, evaluating, or producing geothermal resources that have a temperature below the boiling point of water at the altitude of occurrence used for the sale of a good or service, such as to support a resort heated pool or for power generation.

High-temperature Geothermal Well is a well drilled for the purpose of exploring for, evaluating, or utilizing geothermal resources that have a temperature above the boiling point of water at the altitude of occurrence.

UIC | UGS Project Code: If a project is associated with a UIC (Underground Injection Control) or UGS (Underground Gas Storage) project code, list it here.

Project Well List: For each well in the project, enter individual well details into the table. If the number of wells exceeds the space provided, submit a well list with this form.

III. CEQA LEAD AGENCY

Contact Information for CEQA Lead Agency: Operator should contact the CEQA Local Agency or State Agency (other than CalGEM) to verify the appropriate contact information before entering it here.

Was an environmental document prepared for this project?:

☐ By marking 'YES', this means CalGEM, the Local Agency, or another State Agency (such as the State Lands Commission, California Energy Commission, or the California Public Utilities Commission) has prepared an environmental document within the scope of the project. Provide name & contact information for the CEQA Lead Agency in box below. Continue to "CEQA Lead Agency Document Information" in this Section.

☐ By marking 'NO', this means the Local Agency or another State Agency did not prepare an environmental document, and CalGEM may conduct its CEQA review as the **Lead Agency**. There may be situations when the entity determines the proposed project is **exempt** and provides approval – if so, check "Exempt," provide a copy of the date-stamped NOE, or local resolution approving the exemption if a NOE was NOT filed with the SCH along with information to verify communication with the entity about the inquiry into whether an NOE is available– provide name, phone # and/or email of staff person contacted, and date of communication.

CEQA Lead Agency Document Information

Environmental Document Title: List the name of the Lead Agency's environmental document.

SCH Number: If the document was filed with the SCH it will have an 8-to-10-digit number; enter it here. If the document was filed with the county clerk, it will not have a SCH number; enter N/A.

Environmental Document Type: Check the box for the type of environmental document. If the environmental document has a supplemental, subsequent, recirculated and, or addendum, check the box(es) that apply. ND (Negative Declaration), MND (Mitigated Negative Declaration), EIR (Environmental Impact Report)

Date Document was Adopted or Certified: This date can be found on the environmental document's Notice of Determination, by searching for the document at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/Advanced>, or on the Local Resolution that was passed for the adoption or certification of the document.

Page numbers applicable to the Project Scope: List the page numbers in the environmental document where the current project, for which CalGEM's approval is requested, is covered.

IV. NEPA FEDERAL AGENCY (If any)

Contact Information for NEPA Federal Agency: If a project has a federal component, provide federal government contact information.

NEPA Federal Agency Document(s): Provide Project Title (name of NEPA document) and NEPA Project number; type of NEPA documentation; and other information requested. For EIS only – provide Federal Register Notice number, publication date, and date of Record of Decision.

V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The **project description** is the starting point for every project that must undergo a CEQA environmental review at CalGEM. Its purpose is to provide basic information for CalGEM to (1) determine its CEQA agency role; (2) identify potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity; (3) determine appropriate level of environmental analysis (exemption determination or type of environmental document to prepare); and (4) identify any additional information that may be needed during the environmental review. It must be written in a narrative format that is clear and use simple language where practical. A full and complete project description may be required for environmental review.

(Note: The project description may be included as an attachment, as indicated in Section VI of this form. In which case, please state "See attached.")

To the extent applicable, include the following information on the proposed project.

Project Name

Applicant Name

Project Proposal: Provide a statement of objectives describing the purpose of the project, including description of project activity, project type, and CalGEM action(s) requested for the proposed project (e.g., issue new drill permit, issue a rework permit, UIC project approval letter, or combination thereof).

Describe activities for each phase of the proposed project, including duration and equipment needed. Include descriptions of associated construction, if any, for temporary and permanent facilities (e.g., well pad, flowlines, new/widening of access road(s), power poles, etc.). Describe the area in acres that would be disturbed from

project activity (temporary and permanent); proposed water use including quantity, source, and method of transportation (e.g., truck, pipeline, etc.); transportation required (e.g., for water, chemicals, equipment, workers, and waste); number of vehicles trips required and vehicle miles; disposition of all waste materials including the facility where waste would be properly managed (e.g.; reuse, recycle, disposal); and other pertinent information. Discuss whether the project would result in an increase in production or injection, thereby requiring expansion of associated facilities.

Identify any best management processes proposed as part of the project intended to avoid or reduce any potential impact(s) to the environment that may result from this project.

Project Location: Identify the city and/or county, latitude/longitude, section/township/range, oil, gas or geothermal field name, well name(s) if any, and the size of the project (in acres).

Environmental Setting: Describe the current physical environmental conditions at the project location and the surrounding land use(s) (e.g., agricultural, residential, commercial, established oil field, or other industrial).

Local Agency Requirements: Discuss briefly the local zoning and permits required by the local agency for the proposed activity.

Aerial Photos/Maps: Include photos and/or maps of the project vicinity and project boundary that includes all activities related to the proposed project.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Documents that are typically needed to conduct a CEQA review of a project. Note that this is not an exhaustive list, nor is every document on the list required for every project.

Check the boxes for documents submitted with this Form for CalGEM's CEQA review. Please provide copies of applicable documents associated with the proposed project (PDF or weblink). Provide the URL for web inked document(s).

This Form and other CEQA forms can be found on CalGEM's CEQA website at:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>