

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  
[District Address](#)  
[City, CA Zip Code](#)  
**Contact:** [District email](#)

**Instruction is in blue text. Example language is in green text.**

**\*\*Remove "DRAFT" watermark and delete all instructional and example language, and this sentence prior to submitting for first review. Retain only the text that applies to the project. Lastly, change all font color to black\*\***

**Activity Title:** [CalGEM Project Title](#)

**Activity Applicant:** [Operator Name](#)

**Activity Location:** [County, Oil field; Section/Township/Range; lat/long; and/or location description](#)

**Activity Description:** Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 1724.6, subdivision (d), the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) completed a project-by-project review of [[insert name operator](#)]'s underground injection control (UIC) project [[identify UIC project](#)]. In the course of this review, CalGEM identified necessary modifications to the associated Project Approval Letter to ensure the existing UIC project is in compliance with CalGEM's UIC regulations. CalGEM is issuing an updated Project Approval Letter that may impose additional conditions of approval and remediation efforts that will improve the safety and function of the existing project without expanding operations.

The approved remediation consists of: [<enter applicable information about remediation work for the project here>](#). The wells being remediated are located within the [<enter oilfield name here>](#) oilfield and are listed below.

| API # | Well Name |
|-------|-----------|
|       |           |
|       |           |

**Exempt Status:** CalGEM has determined that the proposed activity 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 activity 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources  |               | 15307               |        |
|   | <input checked="" 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)        |        |
| <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. |  |               |                     |        |

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The basis for CalGEM's determination that the proposed activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

**Class 1 – Existing Facility:** The Class 1 exemption per the CEQA Guidelines applies because the proposed activity 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, the proposed activity is in accordance with 14 CCR § 1684.1 which provides that 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.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR § 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project 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 would be conducted entirely on an existing pad with enough space to contain all equipment and vehicles. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The proposed project is located within a highly disturbed active oilfield. The rework would not expand the existing facility.

**Classes 7 and 8, Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment** (14 CCR §§ 15307, 15308): The Class 7 and Class 8 exemptions would also 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. Imposition of additional conditions of approval and remediation necessary to continue to safely operate the wells, which were the subject of CalGEM's project-by-project review (see table above), will improve the safety and function of the existing UIC project without expanding operations and are protective 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 (c)) referenced above. There is no substantial evidence that there are any "unusual circumstances" associated with the proposed activity 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 exemption(s) is appropriate.

Consistent with the purposes of PRC § 3250 et seq. and the documentation available for the preliminary review, the proposed activity 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 Notice of Exemption (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at CalGEM's [District office](#), located at [District office address here](#), Sacramento, CA 95814; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>.

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_