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: 685470_Group_Chevron_UIC

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

Project Location: Kern, Lost Hills; 29/26S/21E/MD; 35.63069916 / -119.73736572;

Project Description: The sidetracking of three existing wells involves sidetracking into an existing completion zone and perforating each casing. The proposed project duration is four days and will occur within an active Lost Hills Oilfield.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving three permits for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (C5640) to sidetrack the wells listed below, in the Lost Hills Oil Field.

API #	**Well Name**
0403028553	5-12W
0403027101	3-5UW
0403029813	4-10W

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)	
☐	**Statutory Exemption:**			
	☐ Ongoing Project (*pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973*)	21169	15261 (b)	
	☐ Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	

	Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
☐	Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
☐	Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
☑	**Categorical Exemption:**	21084		
☑	**Class 1**: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
☑	**Class 2**: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
☐	**Class 3**: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
☑	**Class 4:** Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
☐	**Class 7**: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
☐	**Class 8**: Protection of the Environment		15308	
☐	**Class 11:** Accessory Structures		15311	
☐	**Class 21**: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
☐	**Class 30**: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
☐	**Class 33**: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
☐	**General Exemption** ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
☐	**Not a "Project" subject to CEQA**		15378 (b)(2)	

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.

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 is sidetracking three existing wells in the Lost Hills field. The proposed sidetrack activities will maintain an existing level of service and operations. The well will return to the same operations as historical operations. These sidetracks will use temporary equipment, such as a workover rig, confirmed to fit within the existing wellpad. This proposed Project is a minor alteration involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond previously existing. CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the use of the well and capacity of the operation

are limited by the existing permits for UIC project code 432-00-024. The engineering summary indicates the proposed work is within the scope of those approvals.

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 is sidetracking three existing wells needed to continue resource development. The sidetracked wells will be located on the same existing wellpad. This will maintain the well's existing service and operations and return it to its historical operations. CalGEM engineer has reviewed the existing UIC permit 432-00-024 and confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project, and the existing permit limits the use of the well and its capacity.

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 sidetracking three existing wells into an existing zone. 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 new production facilities or grading, so 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: Charmaine Robinson **Date:** 5/12/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division