

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
11000 River Run Boulevard
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Contact: CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 693811_Group_Chevron_UIC

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

Project Location: Kern County, Kern River; Sec. 03, Twn. 29S, Rng. 28E, Base MD; Latitude: 35.4364356, Longitude: -118.9588394

Project Description:

Proposed Project:

Chevron proposes to rework 10 existing wells in the existing and heavily developed Kern River Oil field to continue oil and gas resource development. Due to the proximity of wells to each other in an already disturbed densely developed and active Kern River Oilfield they are grouped in this application. All perforations will be within the existing completion zone. Water used during the rework operations will be metered, reclaimed produced water, approximately 400 barrels, each well. The work will not increase the depth of any well.

UIC Project #34000013 is a steamflood project in the Kern River Reservoir, Kern River Oil Field, Kern County, California. It includes continuous steam injection and cyclic steam wells. The most recent Project Approval Letter (PAL) was issued on 11/05/2002, and the most recent non-expansion infill package was approved on 07/25/2023. There are no proposed changes to UIC Project #34000013.

Key Considerations Summary:

- Work locations will be accessed using existing access roads
- New road construction or improvement will not be needed
- The work will occur on existing well pads
- All equipment will be staged within the project boundary on existing well pads and access roads

- Grading in undisturbed will not occur in any phase of the work
- The work will use existing electrical lines
- The work will re-use, repair, or re-installation of various above-ground piping to connect well sites to existing infrastructure.
- New infrastructure will not be constructed as a result of the work
- All waste from the project will be handled per state and county regulations
- This work is designed to support continuation of resource development in the area. No additional facilities or equipment will be required beyond that described in this application
- The zone of completion for the proposed is a known hydrocarbon zone is not exploratory
- The work will not change the zone of completion or pool of any wells
- The work will not result in a change in purpose or capacity of any wells
- The work will not result in a change in well type of any wells
- The work does not occur within an artificial island
- The work will comply with updated CalGEM regulations
- There are not sensitive receptors within the project area
- There are not sensitive plant or wildlife species within the project area

Project Location:

The project is in unincorporated Kern County, is not within City limits and does not extend beyond designated oil field boundary. The project locations are located on a relatively flat, open area and 100% disturbed in a densely developed, existing oil field. No change to the surface is included in the proposed work. The proposed location boundaries for work will encompass an area of 100' x 200' (20,000 square feet or 0.47 acres) each.

Environmental Setting:

The current existing land use (and surrounding land use) of the proposed project is an active oil field consisting of oil and gas wells.

Best Management Practices:

Biological review – no impacts to wildlife are anticipated. Chevron will conduct a pre-execution survey prior to work commencing. No impact to cultural and paleontological resources are expected to occur.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 10 permit(s) for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Kern River Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402970850	Unspecified 3981
0402970841	Unspecified 3784
0402970807	Unspecified 3384
0402944555	Unspecified 4-8
0402972140	Unspecified 3465
0403024353	Junction 119
0402956712	Aladdin 14
0402926947	May 19
0402930480	Junction 26
0402987960	Gold Standard 31

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).

that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, and the environment.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):

Class 2 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[.]" (14 CCR § 15302.) The proposed project would reconstruct the casing and wellbore(s) of existing wells. The work would take place on the existing wellbore(s) and well pads. The proposed work involves negligible change in use of the wells. The proposed project and related permit approval is consistent with the laws that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, and the environment.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):

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 project involves negligible or no vegetation removal, expansion of the existing well pads, and ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be no surface disturbance related activities that would significantly disturb the surrounding environment. The proposed project and related permit approval is consistent with the laws that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, 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) 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 District office, located at 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield CA 93311; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>.



5/12/2025

Certified: _____

Date: _____

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division