

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: 676214_Group_CRPC_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC)

Project Location: Kern County, Mount Poso; Sec. 04, Twn. 27S, Rng. 28E, Base MD;
Latitude: 35.6048393, Longitude: -118.9694976

Project Description:

CHAPTER 1: WORK DESCRIPTION

The term "Project Site" is used in this document to define the proposed area of disturbance such as the proposed well site, location of facilities, etc. The term "Project Area" includes the area surrounding the proposed Project Site that is relevant to understanding the Project Site, such as access roads, etc.

1.1 Work Summary

1.1.1 Work Location

The Project Site(s) are located near the unincorporated area of Bakersfield in Kern County, California consisting of approximately 2.30 acres in the subject property. Details regarding the Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs], Section, Township, and Ranges are provided below in Table 1. For an overview of the work location, refer to Figure 1: Work Location Area View Map. For specific site details, see Figure 2: Work Specific Site Plan Map(s).

Well Name	APN	Section	Township	Range
Alta Vedder 45L	074-090-08	4	27S	28E
Sarrett Fee 47L	074-090-09	4	27S	28E
ALTA VEDDER 35C	074-090-08	4	27S	28E
MATTHEW FEE 24C	074-090-05	4	27S	28E
KING 1006LVH	074-100-15	22	27S	28E

Table 1: Location Information Including: Assessor's Parcel Number (APN), Section, Township, and Range

The subject property is located in a Project Area that includes private surface ownership and associated leases, as well as private and federal (BLM) mineral ownership and leases. The proposed project area consists of a fully operational active oil field named Mt Poso Oil Field (MPOF). The subject wells are among approximately 2,422 other wells within the MPOF.

The subject property is located on a relatively hilly, open area in a dry region of the southern San Joaquin Valley. The topography of the area is typically comprised of low-lying hills, agricultural fields, and sparse vegetation, surrounded by fully industrial oil and gas development.

1.1.2 Work Proposal

The primary work objective is to sidetrack five (5) existing well(s). This work is designed to support continuation of oil and gas resource development in the area. The wells are not being sidetracked (i) for abandonment purposes only or (ii) in connection with an enforcement order to mitigate or prevent environmental damage or surface expression.

Sidetracking is the process of drilling a new wellbore from an existing wellbore. This is typically done when the original wellbore encounters a problem, when accessing remaining hydrocarbons within portions of the same reservoir, or when obstructions in the wellbore need to be bypassed. This process allows drilling a new section in an existing wellbore in the same rock formation restoring the well's original functionality.

The wells and their coordinates are listed in Table 2.

WellSTAR Form ID	API #	Well Name	SHL Latitude (NAD83)	SHL Longitude (NAH83)	Current Well Type	Proposed Well Type
676214	0403016626	Alta Vedder 45L	35.60843658	-118.9693222	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas
676215	0403016639	Sarrett Fee 47L	35.60483932	-118.9694977	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas
676216	0403021483	ALTA VEDDER 35C	35.60896301	-118.9712143	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas
676218	0403021539	MATTHEW FEE 24C	35.61075592	-118.9731751	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas
676251	0403069164	KING 1006LVH	35.568445	-118.955211	Oil & Gas	Oil & Gas

Table 2: Proposed Sidetrack Location Specification

The potential disturbance footprint would encompass an existing 20,000 square foot (100 ft x 200 ft) well pad per well. The entirety of this work would be located in an area of existing disturbance and no change in the surface topography (such as drainage patterns) would result. There will be no expansion of the existing well pads, roads, staging areas, or pipelines. No new grading would occur in any undisturbed areas. No new road construction or expansions would be required for the proposed project. Routine maintenance activities at the site would include removal of weeds and other ruderal vegetation for fire control and road maintenance. The following is a breakdown of anticipated disturbance by sidetrack operation in acres in Table 3 shown below.

Well Name	Bio Report Needed? (Y/N)	Site Footprint (ac.)	Permanent Habitat Disturbance (ac.)	Temporary Habitat Disturbance (ac.)	Sensitive Receptor Present? (Y/N)
Alta Vedder 45L	N	0.46	0.00	0.00	N
Sarrett Fee 47L	N	0.46	0.00	0.00	N
ALTA VEDDER 35C	N	0.46	0.00	0.00	N
MATTHEW FEE 24C	N	0.46	0.00	0.00	N
KING 1006LVH	N	0.46	0.00	0.00	N

Table 3: Site footprints and disturbance acreages

1.1.3 Work Duration and Activities:

The work will commence after CalGEM permit approval. The time of year the work would occur is dependent on the date of final CalGEM permit approval. For a single well, it is expected to take approximately 17 operational days to complete all construction phases.

Construction activities would generally include the following phases:

1. Partial abandonment of existing damaged wellbore

- Zonal abandonment of well to be sidetracked in accordance with CalGEM abandonment requirements.

2. Site preparation

- Site location work on existing well pads to create safe work site for personnel and environment.

3. Sidetrack drilling (construction) of the well

- Sidetracking operations in accordance with CalGEM regulations

4. Well completion

- Subsurface completion of well in accordance with CalGEM regulations

5. Final site surface construction

- Re-installation of various aboveground piping and equipment to connect well sites to the existing infrastructure.

The estimated duration of each phase per well can be found in Table 4.

Phase	Estimated Duration (days)
Partial abandonment of existing well	2
Site preparation	7
Sidetrack drilling (construction) of well	3
Well completion	2

Final site surface construction 3

Table 4: Estimated Time Duration by Project Phase

All work during the project phases, except for the drilling phase, will occur during the days Monday through Friday, and approximate hours from 6 am to 5 pm. The drilling rig will operate 24 hours per day.

1.2 Work Components

1.2.1 Temporary Equipment

Table 5 through Table 9 below list equipment that would be used during the site preparation and construction. Each phase requires different combinations of temporary equipment. At the end of each construction phase, the temporary equipment would be removed from the well site.

On-Site Equipment	Quantity
Production Rig	1
Mud Pump	1
Coil Tubing Unit	1
Bulk Truck	1
Cement Pump	1
Passenger Car/Pickup Trucks (Light Duty)	1
Heavy Duty Trucks	1

Table 5: Temporary Equipment Used During Partial Abandonment Phase

On Site Equipment	Quantity
Backhoe	1
Excavator	1
Grader	1
Loader	1
Passenger Car/Pickup Truck (Light Duty)	4
Heavy Truck/Semi	2

Table 6: Temporary Equipment Used During Site Preparation Phase

On-Site Equipment	Quantity
Drilling Rig	1
Generator	1
Mud Pump	1
Forklift	1
Sump	1
Mud Pit	1
Drill Pipe Trailer	1
Cat Walk	1
Casing Racks	1
Dog House	1
Accumulator	1
Water Tank	1
Utility Trailers	4
Tubular Delivery Truck	2
Wireline truck	1

Cement Pump Truck	1
Cement Bulk Truck	1
Vacuum Truck	4
Passenger Car/Pickup Trucks (Light Duty)	12
Heavy Duty Trucks	9

Table 7: Temporary Equipment Used During Drilling (Sidetrack) Phase

On Site Equipment	Quantity
Wireline Truck	1
Completion Rig	1
Tubular Delivery Truck	1
Rig Pump	1
500 BBL Portable Tank	1
Passenger Car/Pickup Trucks (Light Duty)	3

Table 8: Temporary Equipment Used During Well Completion Phase

On Site Equipment	Quantity
Backhoe	1
Loader	1
Crane	1
Bucket Truck	1
Digger Derrick Truck	1
Welding Machine	1
Portable Generator / Transfer Pump	1
Passenger Car/Pickup Trucks (Light Duty)	9
Heavy Truck/Semi	1

Table 9: Temporary Equipment Final Surface Construction

1.2.2 Permanent Equipment / Infrastructure

The construction activity will not include installation of new pipelines or infrastructure. No new ground disturbance would occur. The proposed construction activities would use existing electrical lines. The proposed construction activities would involve a combination of re-use, repair, or re-installation of various above-ground piping to connect subject well sites to the existing infrastructure.

1.2.3 Hazardous Waste Management

All wastes would be profiled and any that are deemed hazardous would be handled and transported to an approved hazardous waste disposal facility. The proposed work is not expected to generate wastes that deviate from established waste profiles.

Solid waste would be generated in a number of ways during routine well operations and maintenance and drilling of the well. During drilling, the major source of waste will be drill cuttings. All drilling cuttings would be disposed of in on-site sumps. The project would also be required to comply with Assembly Bill 1960 implementing regulations, which address Spill Contingency Plan requirements; oilfield sumps; production facilities containment, maintenance and testing, safety equipment and other equipment.

A low solids non-dispersed mud system containing bentonite, water, non-hazardous polymer, and nonreactive lost circulation materials (e.g., sawdust, nut plug, and prima-seal) would be used in drilling operation. CRPC will comply with the General Order Notice of Applicability obtained from the Central Valley Regional Water Control Boards for boring wastes, consisting of drilling mud and drill cuttings, which will be disposed of in a surface impoundment (sump) adjacent to each well and not transported off-site.

Some hazardous materials would be used and stored on site according to applicable federal, state and local regulations. However, the proposed sidetracks would not result in the production of hazardous waste as defined and regulated by Titles 22 and 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Rather, the proposed work would generate non-hazardous designated waste, including drilling mud and oily wastes that, if required, can be transported and disposed of at a permitted disposal facility. In the unlikely event that anticipated waste were to later be deemed a hazardous Class I waste by the state, such waste would be treated, stored and disposed of at an offsite facility permitted to accept Class I waste. Hazardous materials and non-hazardous waste would be transported by a licensed transportation company.

1.2.4 Personnel, Transportation, and Parking

The increase in traffic associated with construction activities would be during the typical work hours Monday through Friday 6 am to 5 pm except during sidetrack drilling which is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week operation.

CRPC would use existing roads to access the project site. Deliveries of new drilling, maintenance, or other equipment, as well as the removal of old equipment, including drilling rigs, would utilize existing roadways. Traffic would avoid peak hours [and residential roadways] to the maximum extent feasible. [CRPC would not use residential roadways.]

A journey management evaluation of the route would be conducted prior to the mobilization of the equipment. The speed limit while driving on unpaved roads would not exceed 10 miles per hour (mph), except as otherwise permitted by posted signs. Dust would be controlled via water trucks scheduled throughout the day, or by special request, consistent with CRPC's Fugitive Dust Control Plan.

Heavy equipment would remain on the work site or at the dedicated staging area(s) during the construction phase of the sidetrack operation. Daily changes in traffic patterns would be limited to the additional work crews travelling to and from the site during the work.

All employee and truck parking would occur within the existing well pads or within other disturbed areas and employees would carpool to the well sites. Site access and parking at the well sites would not change as a result of the proposed sidetrack work.

1.3 Key Considerations Summary

- Work locations will be accessed using existing access roads
- No new road construction or improvement will 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
- No new grading in undisturbed areas will occur in any phase of the work
- The work will use existing electrical lines
- The work will involve re-use, repair, or re-installation of various above-ground piping to connect well sites to existing infrastructure
- No new infrastructure will occur 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 sidetrack is a known hydrocarbon zone
- 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 proposed sidetrack is not for abandonment purposes only
- The proposed sidetrack is not associated with a UGS Project
- The work does not occur within an artificial island
- The work will comply with updated CalGEM regulations
- There are no sensitive receptors within the project area
- There are no sensitive plant or wildlife species within the project area

CHAPTER 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project site is located within the Mount Poso Oilfield in unincorporated Kern County, in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The Mount Poso Oilfield is a designated CalGEM oilfield located north of the City of Bakersfield. The field parallels State Route 65. Access to the project site will be off Granite Road, a (Kern) County-maintained public road. Portions of the field are under the jurisdiction of the federal government (Bureau of Land Management). However, none of the proposed reworks have a federal component.

The proposed sidetracks are located on existing, maintained well pads within the Mount Poso Oilfield. Reworked wells will tie into existing infrastructure. Existing operations are comprised of existing wells, single and multi-well pads and support oil and gas infrastructure, such as production pipelines, powerlines, access roads, production facilities and non-oil and gas facilities. The undisturbed areas within the Oilfield contain

scattered areas of saltbush scrub and non-native grassland habitat. The rework activities will not require new disturbance.

There are no incorporated cities within the Mt Poso field boundary, however, there are lands and minerals owned by the federal government that fall within the field.

The oil produced in the Mount Poso Oilfield is heavy crude, extracted via primary and secondary recovery mechanisms. Active injection projects are carried out in compliance with applicable Underground Injection Control (UIC) permits or are in the permitting process.

The site's topography is typical of the region, and the surrounding land is densely developed for oil and gas extraction. All operations will take place on existing well pads, with no expansion requirements, resulting in no new disturbance (0.00 Ac). Grading and earthwork will be limited to these previously disturbed areas. No waterways, including ephemeral streams, are present within the site boundaries, and the site is not located within an alluvial drainage. Well construction standards ensure no impact on groundwater quality or supply.

Crude oil and natural gas produced in the field are processed and transported to local markets via established infrastructure. Natural gas is either consumed in operations, sold into the California market, re-injected, or repurposed for fuel gas and steam generation. Power for field operations is supplied by in-field power generation equipment or external sources.

Adjacent areas may support special-status species, but no significant ecological disturbances are anticipated as operations will remain confined to the previously developed areas.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 5 permit(s) for California Resources Production Corporation to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Mount Poso Oil Field, to address well integrity issues.

API #	Well Name
0403016626	Alta Vedder 45L
0403016639	Sarrett Fee 47L
0403021483	Alta Vedder 35C
0403021539	Matthew Fee 24C
0403069164	King 1006LVH

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)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption:			
<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"/>	Categorical Exemption:	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p>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.</p>				

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 consists of the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously." This includes "remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells involving the alteration of well casing, such as perforating and casing repair, removal, or replacement; installation or removal of downhole production or injection equipment, cement plugs, bridge plugs, and packers set to isolate production

or injection intervals." (14 CCR § 1684.1.) The proposed project would make minor alterations to the well(s), resulting in negligible expansion of use beyond that existing previously. 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 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://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>.



5/16/2025

Certified: _____

Date: _____

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division