

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: 470009_Group_SPR_UIC

Project Applicant: Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC (SPR)

Project Location: Kern County, Cymric Oil Field; 06/30S/22E/MD; Latitude 35.34783100,
 Longitude -119.65998700

Project Description: The proposed project would deepen two idle cyclic steam wells. Conductors have been set 90 feet deep, but the wells have not yet been drilled. The proposed work includes drilling to a total depth of 815 feet and 860 feet respectively, running and cementing casing, gravel packing, and setting bridge plugs. The wells would complete in the Tulare formation, which is the approved injection zone for UIC projects 19024128 and 19024022. The project would not modify the UIC projects.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving two permit(s) for Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC to deepen the wells listed below, in the Cymric Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403062794	McKittrick Front 131
0403062795	McKittrick Front 132

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)

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<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 applies because the proposed work consists of "operation, repair, or minor alteration" of previously permitted wells with "negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously" (14 CCR § 1684.1). The project would drill below the conductors of two existing cyclic steam injections wells. The wells would remain cyclic steam injectors. The wells would be drilled to the Tulare formation, which is the approved zone of production for UIC projects 19024128 and 19024022. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would not have a modifying effect on UIC projects 19024128 and 19024022. The proposed work would be a continuation of operations as permitted by the PALs and would therefore be a negligible expansion of use.

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

Class 2 applies because the project consists of the "reconstruction" of existing wells which would be located on the same site and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as previously permitted (14 CCR § 15302). The proposed project

would reconstruct the existing wells by drilling below the conductors, which have already been set. The work would take place on existing well pads. The wells would remain cyclic steam injection wells. The proposed work would be a continuation of operations as permitted by the PALs and would therefore be a negligible expansion of use.

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

Class 4 applies because the project involves "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" (14 CCR § 1684.2). Work would take place on existing well pads which are large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing roads. The project takes place in a densely developed oil field. As part of routine measures, the operator will conduct species-specific mitigation measures, including pre-disturbance surveys 30-days prior to project activity by a qualified biologist. Therefore, there would be no surface disturbance that would significantly impact the surrounding 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 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: _____ *Mikayla Vaba* _____ **Date:** 5/27/2025
Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division