

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 **From:** Department of Conservation
 State Clearinghouse 715 P Street, MS 1803
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Sacramento, CA 95814 **Contact:** CEQA@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 699864_Group_Aera_UIC

Project Applicant: Aera Energy LLC (A0610)

Project Location: Kern, South Belridge Oil Field; 34 / 28S / 21E / MD; 35.44423676 / -
 119.70389557; 1159 ft N and 969 ft E from the SW section corner

Project Description: Aera proposes to rework a total of 2 existing oil and gas well(s) in the existing and heavily developed South Belridge Oil Field to continue oil and gas resource development. The proposed Site for each rework operation will encompass an area of 100 feet by 200 feet (20,000 square feet, or 0.47 acres). The total area to be used in all proposed rework operations in the Administrative Grouping is approximately 40,000 sq ft (0.94 acres). Aera estimates it will take approximately 7 days per individual rework operation once work has begun. The first phase of the work for each rework operation will be site preparation. The specific rework activities for each well consists of cement squeezing perforations.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving # permit(s) for Aera Energy LLC (A0610) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Belridge, South Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403041592	927GR2-34
0403023393	928NR-34

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).

the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 05200004, as permitted by the Project Approval Letter (PAL).

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because it consists of “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. Work will be conducted on an existing well on an existing well pad. No production facilities and no new ground surface disturbance will be associated with this project. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 05200004, as permitted by the PAL.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies. The proposed project would be conducted entirely on an existing pad with enough space to contain all equipment. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The proposed project is located within an industrial area. Therefore, 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 rework/sidetrack would not expand the facility. The entirety of this work is in an area of existing disturbance and no change in the surface topography (such as drainage patterns) is included in the work design. No new grading will occur in undisturbed areas. Regular operations at the site would include removal of weeds and other ruderal vegetation for fire control and road maintenance. The current land use for the proposed rework activities consists of dedicated oil and gas operations located within the South Belridge Oil Field. The project will not disturb any undisturbed areas or result in the expansion or construction of facilities.

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: _____ **Date:** _____

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division