

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: 690774_Group_CRPC_UIC

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC)

Project Location: Kern County, Kern Front; Sec. 14, Twn. 28S, Rng. 27E, Base MD; Latitude: 35.4920959, Longitude: -119.0312423

Project Description: The Project Site(s) are located near the unincorporated area of Bakersfield in Kern County, California consisting of approximately 5.98 acres in the subject property. The subject property is located in a Project Area that includes private surface ownership and associated leases, as well as private mineral ownership and leases.

The proposed Project Area consists of a fully operational active oil field named Kern Front Oil Field (KFOF). The subject wells are among approximately 1,137 other wells within the KFOF. 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. The primary work objective is to sidetrack thirteen (13) 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. 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 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.

The project site is located within the Kern Front Hills Oilfield in unincorporated Kern County, in the San Joaquin Valley of California. The Kern Front Oilfield is a large southwest dipping homo-clinal structure bounded by the Kern Front Fault to the east. It contains two major producing units, the Etchegoin and the Chanac Formations. Both zones are composed of sand, with interbedded silts and clays. Many small southwest-trending faults run across the field.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 13 permits for California Resources Production Corporation to perform sidetrack work on the wells listed below, in the Kern Front Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402955638	Wetmore-Young 2
0403021667	Lehmann 40
0403054365	308
0403052352	Lightner 4
0403053656	333
0403038561	Wetmore 37R
0403056308	Sill One 69
0403053659	353
0403054557	331
0403045898	McDougall 16
0403055002	91
0403052216	McDonald 25
0403021774	Young Fee 115

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): The "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption is applicable per the CEQA Guidelines and CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR § 1684.1) because the proposed work consists of repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of an existing previously permitted well involving no expansion of former use. The Class includes, but is not limited to: remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells. The well would maintain its existing well type and the use of the well would remain the same as before.

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

