

Department of Conservation

Notice of Exemption

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:** 702907\_Group\_Aera\_OG

**Project Applicant:** Aera Energy LLC

**Project Location:** Kern County, South Belridge; Sec. 20, Twn 28S, Rng 21E, Base MD;  
Latitude: 35.46721755, Longitude: -119.73672122

**Project Description:** Aera proposes to rework a total of 3 existing oil and gas well(s) in the existing and heavily developed South Belridge Oil Field to continue oil and gas resource development. Due to the proximity of the wells to each other in an already disturbed densely developed and active South Belridge Oil Field they are grouped in one Administrative Grouping on this application.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 3 permit(s) for Aera Energy LLC to rework the wells listed below, in the South Belridge Oil Field, to address well integrity issues.

API #	Well Name
0403035726	932Z-29
0403040812	528Z1-20
0403038069	925D-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).

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Statutory Exemption:</b>			
<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"/>	<b>Categorical Exemption:</b>	21084		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 2:</b> Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 3:</b> New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 30:</b> Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exemption</b> ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b>		15378 (b)(2)	
<p><b>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR § 15300.2):</b> 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 substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced[.]" Examples of

