

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: 706748_Group_SPR_UIC

Project Applicant: Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC (SPR)

Project Location: Kern County, Midway-Sunset; Sec. 22, Twn. 32S, Rng. 23E, Base MD;
Latitude: 35.1237564, Longitude: -119.4963531

Project Description: SPR proposes to rework the existing wells located in the Midway Sunset Oilfield. The wells will be completed in the same reservoir as the original wellbore. The completion design will be the same as the original wellbore. The project will include: Plugging back an existing perforation interval with cement, Adding perforations to the same reservoir as the existing completion interval. Work will require the following equipment: (1) Rig to pull/run tubing and lay the cement plug; (1) Bulk Truck and (1) Pump to plug back the existing wellbore; and (1) Wireline Truck to add perforations. Deliveries are limited to water. All travel to/from the project location will occur on established roadways and no expansion is required. The speed limit while on SPR property is 15 mph. Dust is controlled via water trucks pursuant to SPR's Dust Control Plan. The project is estimated to take 5 days to complete with 10-hour per day operations from 6:00AM-5:00PM. The work will be completed in the Summer/Fall/Winter. The existing well pads can accommodate all associated equipment, materials storage, and operations including deliveries and personnel parking. Any undisturbed vegetation will be avoided, and all work will occur on the existing disturbed pad only. No expansion of the existing well pad, road, staging areas or pipelines is required. Freshwater requirements are less than 50 barrels per well to mix the cement used for plugging back the existing perforation interval. Water will be supplied by the West Kern Water District from a local meter on the lease. No new pumps, facilities, or flowlines will be installed. Storage, transmission, and processing will be handled utilizing existing infrastructure. Electricity will be supplied from existing systems. No expansion of the existing facilities is required. All operations will take place in a manner consistent with federal, state, and local regulations including those pertaining to the protection of the environment.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 6 permits for Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC to rework the wells listed below, in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403045331	Keene 83
0403065206	Keene 102
0403040383	Williams 22
0403043627	Keene 73
0403040384	Williams 23
0403043626	Keene 72

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 Notice of Exemption (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at CalGEM's Central District Office, located at 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield CA 93311; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>.

Charles O'Brien

6/10/2025

Certified: _____

Date: _____

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division