

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:** 686824\_CREH\_OG

**Project Applicant:** California Resources Elk Hills, LLC

**Project Location:** Kern County, Elk Hills Oil Field; Section 29/Township 30S/Range 23E/B&M MD; Latitude: 35.29114532/Longitude: -119.52811432

**Project Description:**

Pull existing production equipment. Round trip 7" casing scraper. Perforate the Etchegoin from 2259' MD to 2298' MD. Round trip 7" scraper. Using cups and/or packer, acidize the existing perms and acidize the proposed perforations. Run production equipment and return well to production.

Equipment: Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins may be needed. Various mobile temporary equipment will be used including, but not limited to, workover rig, etc., and vehicles to transport personnel and materials to/from the site.

No production facilities and no new ground surface disturbance will be associated with the rework. Any waste materials will be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving a permit for California Resources Elk Hills, LLC to rework the well listed below, in the Elk Hills Oil Field.

| API #      | Well Name |
|------------|-----------|
| 0403051879 | 44NW-29R  |

**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 type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources   |               | 15307               |        |
|   | <input 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):**

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 NOE (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials can be made available to the public by contacting the CalGEM District office, located at 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield CA 93311; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting [CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov). The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

