

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:** 711519\_34000013\_Group\_Chevron\_OG

**Project Applicant:** Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron)

**Project Location:** Kern County, Kern River; Sec. 04, Twn. 29S, Rng. 28E, Base MD; Latitude: 35.4305534, Longitude: -118.9766922

**Project Description:** Chevron proposes to rework 16 existing wells in the existing and heavily developed Kern River Oil field to continue oil and gas resource development. Due to the proximity of wells to each other in an already disturbed densely developed and active Kern River Oilfield they are grouped in this application. All perforations will be within the existing completion zone. Water used during the rework operations will be metered, reclaimed produced water, approximately 400 barrels, each well. The work will not increase the depth of any well. The project is in unincorporated Kern County, is not within City limits and does not extend beyond designated oil field boundary. The project locations are located on a relatively flat, open area and 100% disturbed in a densely developed, existing oil field. No change to the surface is included in the proposed work. The proposed location boundaries for work will encompass an area of 100' x 200' (20,000 square feet or 0.47 acres) each.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 2 permits for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. to rework the wells listed below, in the Kern River Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0402958919	Unspecified 313
0403067842	Unspecified 129R
0402953983	Rasmussen 113
0402977690	Unspecified 732
0402976365	Unspecified 7424
0402974595	Unspecified 7323
0403035050	Green & Whittier A 347
0402960722	Green & Whittier 205
0403029456	Green & Whittier 99R
0403034054	Clarence 59
0403034031	Hanford & Fresno 55
0402961565	Unspecified 7-30A
0402940664	Unspecified 6-30
0403042861	20th Century 39
0402955179	Junction 75

**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	

Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)
<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

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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>.

*Wayne Janssen*

7/8/2025

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division