

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
715 P Street, MS 1803
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: CEQA@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 378669_146000001_HWOC_UIC

Project Applicant: Holmes Western Oil Corporation (H5200)

Project Location: Kern, Cienaga Canyon; 28/11N/23W/SB 35.01153183 / -119.34073639

Project Description: HWOC has applied an application for approval of a new Underground Injection Control (UIC) project 146-00-0001 to convert the idle gas flood well (Federal 28-1) into a waterflood. This well has a history of limited use for gas injection. The waterflood will inject into the same established zone, the Temblor Formation. The proposed conversion will be implemented without making any mechanical alterations to the wellbore. As a result, this activity will result in a reduction of the Area of Review (AOR) radius. The project will utilize existing roads, power lines, facilities, and pipelines. The proposed project will not require any expansion, new construction, or any ground surface disturbances.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving a new PAL (146-00-0001) for HWOC, including the rework of the well listed below, in the Cienaga Canyon Oil Field.

| API # | Well Name |
|------------|--------------|
| 0402956788 | Federal 28-1 |

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 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 applies to the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration" of existing facilities involving "negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously" (§ 1684.1). The proposed project involves converting Federal 28-1 from a gas flood to a waterflood well. The proposed activities are deemed negligible because the proposed work will require no mechanical changes to the wellbore and will result in reduction of the AOR radius from 1320 ft including 15 wells (for the gas flood well) to 494 ft (for the water flood well) consisting of 8 wells. These are negligible changes that would not result in significant

impacts to surface or subsurface conditions. Therefore, the conversions would be a negligible change in use.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies because the rework “consists of drilling operations that result in only minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.” The proposed work will occur on an existing well pad, utilizing current electrical lines and access roads. Above-ground piping will be reused to connect to the existing infrastructure. All equipment staging will be within the project boundary, with no new construction or grading in undisturbed areas. The operator indicated that there are no sensitive plant or wildlife species in the project area.

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 CEQA Program, located at 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814; by calling (916) 445-9686; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting CEQA@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified: _____ *Charmane Robinson* _____ **Date:** 7/15/2025
Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division