

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: 711597_Group_Berry_OG

Project Applicant: Berry Petroleum Company, LLC (Berry)

Project Location: Kern County, Midway-Sunset; Sec. 31, Twn. 32S, Rng. 24E, Base MD;
Latitude: 35.1047897, Longitude: -119.4320678

Project Description: Berry proposes to rework/workover 2 well(s) in the existing and heavily developed Midway-Sunset oil field to continue resource development. The entire proposed project will result in a modification of existing wells, consistent with CCR 1684.1. In addition, because the project will be a minor alteration of existing wells, there will be a negligible effect on the environment, consistent with CCR 1684.2. There will be no expansion of the previously approved use of the wells or deepening of wells.

The proposed project is estimated to take an estimated 10 days per well once work has begun. The project will utilize a workover rig, and various temporary support equipment that include delivery trucks, backhoes, and pickup trucks. The well pad will be able to accommodate all associated equipment and operations, including personnel parking.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 2 permits for Berry Petroleum Company, LLC to rework the wells listed below, in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field.

| API # | Well Name |
|------------|----------------|
| 0403026067 | Section 31 104 |
| 0403027075 | Section 31 106 |

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

7/17/2025

Certified: _____

Date: _____

Department of Conservation,

