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:** 701043_TRC_UIC

**Project Applicant:** TRC Operating Company (TRC)

**Project Location:** Kern County, Midway-Sunset; Sec. 22, Twn. 32S, Rng. 23E, Base MD; Latitude: 35.1263732, Longitude: -119.4982986

**Project Description:** TRC Operating Co. Inc. proposes to rework existing well Bull 46 recomplete up hole and return to production during the next 12 months. The existing well pads and access roads are already 100% disturbed. No remedial grading of existing developed areas will be necessary, and no new land disturbance will occur. The project consists of minor site preparation, rework, and testing. Temporary equipment needed for the project includes a workover rig, pumps, water trucks, and vehicles to transport personnel, materials, mobilize and demobilize equipment, and transport waste. No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required. Waste materials will be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste, as appropriate, at a facility licensed to accept the waste. The rework will increase production and ensure mechanical integrity. However, expansion of the associated facilities will not be necessary.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for TRC Operating Company, Inc. to rework the well listed below, in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field, to address well integrity issues.

| API # | Well Name |
|---|---|
| 0403035963 | Bull 56 |

**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) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | **Statutory Exemption:** | | | |
| | ☐ Ongoing Project (*pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973*) | 21169 | 15261 (b) | |
| | ☐ Ministerial | 21080 (b)(1) | 15268 | |
| | ☐ Declared Emergency | 21080 (b)(3) | 15269 (a) | |
| | ☐ Emergency Projects | 21080 (b)(4) | 15269 (b) or (c) | |
| ☑ | **Categorical Exemption:** | 21084 | | |
| | ☑ **Class 1**: Existing Facilities | | 15301 | 1684.1 |
| | ☑ **Class 2**: Replacement or Reconstruction | | 15302 | |
| | ☐ **Class 3**: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures | | 15303 | |
| | ☑ **Class 4:** Minor Alterations to Land | | 15304 | 1684.2 |
| | ☑ **Class 7**: Protection of Natural Resources | | 15307 | |
| | ☑ **Class 8**: Protection of the Environment | | 15308 | |
| | ☐ **Class 11:** Accessory Structures | | 15311 | |
| | ☐ **Class 21**: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit | | 15321 | |
| | ☐ **Class 30**: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) | | 15330 | |
| | ☐ **Class 33**: Small Habitat Restoration Projects | | 15333 | |
| ☐ | **General Exemption** ("common sense") | | 15061 (b)(3) | |
| ☐ | **Not a "Project" subject to CEQA** | | 15378 (b)(2) | |

**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.

**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):** The "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption is applicable per the CEQA Guidelines and CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR § 1684.1) because the proposed work consists of repair, maintenance, or minor alteration

of an existing previously permitted well involving no expansion of former use. The Class includes, but is not limited to: remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells. The well would maintain its existing well type and the use of the well would remain the same as before.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):** Class 2 applies because it consists of "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[.]" Examples of Class 2 include, but are not limited to, "Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or & "facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity." The proposed project is the rework, or replacement, of the existing wellbore. The rework will be on the same site and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the well did before the rework. Additionally, no additional construction will occur.

**Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2):** Class 4 exemption applies. The proposed project would be conducted entirely on an existing pad with enough space to contain all equipment. The project would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The proposed project is located within an industrial area. Therefore, the proposed project "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 rework would not expand the facility.

**Classes 7 and 8, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment (14 CCR §§ 15307, 15308):** Class 7 and Class 8 exemptions apply. The exemptions are for actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of a natural resource or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment. As demonstrated in the record, the proposed project involves remedial/rework operations to address well integrity issues that requires swift action for protection of a natural resource 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.

**Certified:** Charles O'Brien **Date:** 7/18/2025

Department of Conservation,