

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  
 195 S. Broadway, suite 101  
 Orcutt, CA 93455

**Contact:** [CalGEMNorthern@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CalGEMNorthern@conservation.ca.gov)

**Project Title:** 676207\_Aera\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Aera Energy LLC

**Project Location:** Monterey County, San Ardo oil field; Section 12/23S/10E/MD;  
 35.94340897/-120.84980774; and/1764 ft S and 1392 ft E from the NW  
 section corner

**Project Description:** The Primary work objective is to sidetrack 3 existing steamflood injection well to remediate existing casing damage and restore the well to its original functionality. This work is designed to support continuation of oil and gas resource development in the area.

The proposed work discussed in this document is in the densely developed San Ardo Oil Field owned by Aera Energy, LLC. ("Aera"). Each of the wells [and facilities] within the Administrative Grouping will be among approximately 3,066 other wells within a 2.5 mile radius. Much of the oil and gas development in the San Ardo Oil Field occurred prior to Aera's ownership in 1997. The operations are expected to take approximately 17 operational days to complete all construction phases.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit(s) for Aera Energy, LLC to rework the well listed below, in the San Ardo Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0405322000	Orradre 5180-12
0405321891	Orradre 5452-11
0405322632	Orradre 5446-12

**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

