

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:** 658706\_LBTH\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** LBTH Inc. (L0875)

**Project Location:** Los Angeles, Del Valle; 17/04N/17W/SB; 34.42599869, -118.68829346

**Project Description:** The proposed project involves LBTH Inc. (the Operator) who operates the Vasquez W.D. 1-17 (API: 0403706659), a water disposal well located in the Del Valle Field, Los Angeles County. This well is part of Underground Injection Project (UIC) #1980002. In its review, CalGEM found the UIC project files lacks supporting data to confirm that the injection zone does not contain an underground source of drinking water (USDW), as required by California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, sections 1724.6 and 1724.7. A USDW is defined as containing fewer than 10,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of total dissolved solids (TDS). To remedy this, CalGEM, in collaboration with the Water Board, sent a letter to the operator requiring that a water sample be taken from the injection zone for further analysis.

In response to the direction from CalGEM and the Water Boards, the Operator submitted a NOI to conduct water sampling at the Vasquez 12-17 well (API: 0403706651), a nearby offset well in the field that provides the needed access to the injection zone. Sampling via Vasquez 12-17 well is required to determine whether the injection zone for Vasquez W.D. 1-17 qualifies as a USDW, which will guide further actions to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving one permit for LBTH Inc. (L0875) to rework the well listed below, in the Del Valle Oil Field.

<b>API #</b>	<b>Well Name</b>
0403706651	Vasquez 12-17

**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).

<b>Exemption Type</b>		<b>Statute (PRC)</b>	<b>Regulation (14 CCR)</b>	
<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)	
<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.				

**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[.]” The proposed project is the rework, or replacement, of the existing wellbore which is needed to sample water from the nearby Vasquez 12-17 well to access the injection zone. 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. 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.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:** CalGEM further finds that there are no exceptions to the application of the categorical exemptions (PRC § 21084; 14 CCR § 15300.2 (c)) referenced above. 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. The approved project is within a Health Protection Zone (HPZ) as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3280(b). The HPZ does not present an unusual circumstance because SB 1137 (PRC § 3280 et seq.) requires all oil or gas production facilities or wells with a wellhead within an HPZ to comply with specified health, safety, and environmental requirements. In addition, CalGEM further finds that there are no significant “cumulative impacts” resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on the exemption(s) 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 Headquarter office, located at 715 P Street, MS 1803 , Sacramento, CA 95814; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>.

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

*Charmane Robinson*

Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division

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

8/11/2025