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: 688015 SoCalGas UIC_UGS

Project Applicant: Southern California Gas Company (S4700)

Project Location: Los Angeles, Honor Rancho; 08/04N/16W/SB; 34.44476700, -118.58416748

Project Description: The proposed project would rework an existing water disposal well related to the UGS project (3080001) to inspect the well integrity and remediate identified conditions as part of the Storage Integrity Management Program (SIMP). The proposed project activity consists of pulling completion, cleaning out to total depth, add new perforations within existing perforated zone, performing a wash, install new completion equipment. This action is in compliance with revised regulations (14 CCR § 1726 et seq.) to enhance the safety of UGS projects. The expected project duration is approximately 2.5 weeks.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving one permit for Southern California Gas Company (S4700) to rework the well listed below, in the Honor Rancho Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403707621	WEZU C-4

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): 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 project involves the maintenance of the existing water disposal well associated with the UGS project

(3080001) and does not include modifications or changes to the existing use. The rework is intended to inspect the well integrity and remediate well WEZU C-4. The proposed project activities involve completing and cleaning out to total depth, adding new perforations, washing, and installing new completion equipment. The rework will improve the efficiency of WEZU C-4 water injection under the existing UIC project code 3080002. The operator indicates that no permanent facilities would be constructed, and the project would not involve any new ground surface disturbance, including no new roads or other corridors. The CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project code 3080002. Therefore, there is no expansion of use beyond that previously existing.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because the rework of the wells could be considered "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 [.]" The proposed project is a rework to inspect the well integrity and remediate identified conditions as part of the Storage Integrity Management Program (SIMP). The proposed project activity consists of pulling completion, cleaning out to total depth, adding new perforations within the existing perforated zone, performing a wash, cleaning out to total depth, and installing new completion equipment. The rework will be on an existing well pad, and no additional construction will occur. A CalGEM engineer has reviewed the existing permits for UIC project code 3080002 and confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the UIC project, and the use of the wells and their capacity are limited by the existing permits.

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 existing active gas field. 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 proposed activities and temporary equipment will be contained within the existing well pad. The rework would not expand the existing facility nor require the construction of any permanent facilities.

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: Charmaine Robinson **Date:** 8/19/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division