

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](mailto:CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov)

**Project Title:** 631329\_62809023\_Group\_Macpherson\_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Macpherson Oil Company (Macpherson)

**Project Location:** Kern County, Round Mountain; Sec. 12, Twn. 28S, Rng. 28E, Base MD;  
Latitude: 35.5077590, Longitude: -118.9169921

**Project Description:**

Project Name: 24-RWK-MWSS-Convert to WF (11 well package)

Operator Name: Macpherson Oil Company (M0950)

Project Proposal: Macpherson proposes to rework/workover 11 well(s) in the existing and heavily developed Round Mountain 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.

Project Location: This project is in the densely developed Thomas, Bell, Larkin, Marcan and Heacock lease within the Round Mountain oil field. There is no historical data available for this area. Much of the oil and gas development in the Round Mountain oil field was conducted prior to Macpherson ownership, which began in 2017.

Environmental Setting: The topography for the project area is rolling hills. The surrounding land use within three miles of this project consists of densely developed oil and gas fields. Workover operations will be conducted in well-developed and heavily traveled areas whose primary use is oil and gas extraction. A third-party biological monitor is on contract, and available for support if necessary.

Additional Project Elements: 1. CalGEM Rework Permit 2. Odor Management and Prevention Plan 3. Compliance with the Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) 4. JSR R-2508 Waiver 5. Fugitive Dust Control Plan 6. Cultural Study

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 11 permit(s) for Macpherson Oil Company to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Round Mountain Oil Field.

<b>API #</b>	<b>Well Name</b>
<b>0402918079</b>	<b>Marcan 3</b>
<b>0403030820</b>	<b>Larkin 310</b>
<b>0403051067</b>	<b>KCL TOW 6</b>
<b>0403043227</b>	<b>Heacock 91</b>
<b>0403051151</b>	<b>Heacock 92</b>
<b>0403054646</b>	<b>Heacock 94</b>
<b>0403043139</b>	<b>Thomas 1000IR</b>
<b>0403046705</b>	<b>Marcan 10</b>
<b>0402918234</b>	<b>Bell 17</b>
<b>0403050665</b>	<b>Marcan 15</b>
<b>0403050664</b>	<b>Marcan 13</b>

**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 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 NOE (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials can be made available to the public by contacting the CalGEM District office, located at 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield CA 93311; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting [CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov). The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>.

**Certified:** *Wayne Janssen*

**Date:** 9/9/2025

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Department of Conservation,  
Geologic Energy Management Division