

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: 629511_CRPC_STW

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC)

Project Location: San Joaquin County, Any Field – Northern District; Section 33/Township 01N/Range 04E/MD; 37.888641, -121.541459

Project Description: California Resources Production Corporation (CRPC) plans to drill a new stratigraphic well (CTV III C-1) (the project) in San Joaquin County. During and after CTV III C-1 is drilled, core samples, logs, and pressure data would be collected and sent off site to be analyzed. Analysis of the core samples and wire logs would generate data that would improve understanding of the subsurface and confirm its suitability for the safe, secure, and permanent storage of CO₂. The proposed project would strictly be for data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities. After data is collected and analyzed, CTV III C-1 would be plugged and abandoned by placing cement plugs in the wellbore at certain intervals according to State requirements.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving a permit for CRPC to drill the well listed below, in San Joaquin County.

API #	Well Name
0407720749	CTV III C-1

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"/> Statutory Exemption:			
<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"/> Categorical Exemption:	21084		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction		15302	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection		15306	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment		15308	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures		15311	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<p>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.</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 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies to the proposed project. The proposed project would be conducted on approximately 1 acre within Victoria Island, which is an island in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta of approximately 7,200 acres. The project site has been cultivated for more than 100 years. Once data is collected and analyzed, the stratigraphic well would be permanently plugged and abandoned in accordance with CalGEM regulations and permit conditions. The well would not be used for any other purpose other than data collection and evaluation activities, and no significant impacts to biological resources are expected. 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.

Class 6, Information Collection (14 CCR § 15306.): Class 6 applies to the proposed project. Class 6 projects consist of “basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes only, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.” The proposed project would construct one stratigraphic well for data-collection purposes on previously disturbed land. The project site has been cultivated for more than 100 years. The purpose of the well is not for the production of oil and gas; rather, the well would be used to collect and analyze core samples, pressure data, and wire logs in researching how to improve the understanding of the subsurface and confirm its suitability for the safe, secure, and permanent storage of CO₂. The proposed new well would strictly be used for data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities. Upon completion of the activities, the well would be plugged and abandoned. Therefore, there would be no significant disturbance to environmental resources. Further, the Class 6 exemption applies because the data collected would be used to inform part of a study that may, depending on the research results, lead to an action which has not yet been approved or funded.

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.lci.ca.gov>

Certified:

Nicole Trezza

Date: 9/15/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division