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: 143592_150-00-0001_Chevron_UIC

Project Applicant: Chevron U.S.A. Inc. (Chevron)

Project Location: Fresno County, Coalinga Oil Field; Section 23/Township 20S/Range 14E/MD; 36.17014429, -120.41152275

Project Description: Chevron proposes to create a new steamflood and cyclic steam underground injection control (UIC) project by converting 21 existing oil and gas (O&G) production wells into cyclic steam injection wells and 15 existing O&G production wells into continuous steam (SF) injection wells in the Coalinga Oil Field in Fresno County, California. This is an administrative change that would not require surface disturbance. No new roadways or facilities would be constructed, and no expansion of associated facilities would be required. Per the applicant's project description, the existing oil cleaning, water cleaning, and steam generation plants all have existing capacity to accommodate the increased volumes associated with this UIC project.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) issuing a project approval letter (PAL) to Chevron for the new UIC project No. 150-00-0001 located within the Coalinga Oil Field in Fresno County. The injection wells that would be associated with the new UIC project are listed below.

API #	Well Name
0401926381	Zier 7-11
0401926376	Zier 6-13W
0401926384	Zier 7-13
0401926388	Zier 9-11
0401926365	Zier 8-10W
0401926369	Zier 6-11W
0401926366	Zier 8-14W
0401926394	Unspecified 7-15

API #	Well Name
0401926341	Zier 7-12W
0401926375	Zier 7-12
0401926367	Zier 7-11W
0401926387	Zier 8-12
0401926389	Zier 8-11
0401926368	Zier 8-11W
0401926344	Zier 8-14
0401926342	Zier 8-13W
0401926343	Zier 8-13
0401926374	Zier 8-12W
0401926317	Unspecified 8-I
0401926371	Zier I-9
0401926391	Zier 6-13
0401926370	Zier 6-12W
0401926393	Zier 9-10
0401926392	Zier 8-10
0401926378	Zier 6-11
0401926386	Unspecified 8-15
0401926345	Zier 7-13W
0401926373	Unspecified 6-15
0401926380	Zier 6-12
0401926395	Zier 6-14
0401926379	Unspecified 6-14W
0401926383	Zier 7-14
0401926377	Zier 7-10W
0401926382	Zier 7-10
0401926372	Zier 6-10W
0401926390	Zier 6-10

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)	

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
☑	**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 6:** Information Collection		15306	
	☐ **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 exemption applies because the proposed project consists of "minor alterations" of existing oil and gas production wells involving "negligible or no expansion of existing or former use" (14 CCR § 1684.1). The proposed project would make minor changes to 36 existing oil and gas production wells, 21 of which would be converted to cyclic steam injection and 15 of which would be converted to continuous steam injection wells. Converting the existing oil and gas production wells to injection wells would not require any mechanical changes to the wellbores nor would it require the expansion or construction of new facilities. The proposed project would be located within a formation in which the use of steam to enhance recovery has been ongoing since the 1960s. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board reviewed the proposed project for groundwater impacts and issued a issued a No Objection letter on September 28, 2023. Therefore, the project would result in a negligible change in existing use.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies because the project consists of "minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation" (14 CCR § 1684.2). The proposed project would convert 36 existing wells from oil and gas

production to injection; however, these conversions would not require mechanical changes to the casing. This is an administrative change that would not have any physical impact on the environment as no surface disturbance is required or proposed. No new roadways or facilities would be constructed, and no expansion of associated facilities would be required. Per the applicant's project description, the existing oil cleaning, water cleaning, and steam generation plants all have existing capacity to accommodate the increased volumes associated with this UIC project. Therefore, there would be no significant ground disturbance that could impact biological resources or their habitat.

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:** 10/3/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division