

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: State Abandonment of Orphan Wells Project – Long Beach

Project Applicant: Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)

Project Location: Long Beach Oil Field; Signal Hill, Los Angeles County; Section 19, Township 04S, Range 12W, SB; 33.80626297, -118.17162323

Project Description: The proposed project consists of the plug and abandonment (P&A) of one existing orphan oil and gas well in Los Angeles County as part of CalGEM's State Abandonment Program. The proposed work involves well abandonment and decommissioning tanks and other production-related facilities attendant to the well, if needed. For well abandonment, the well will be cleaned out and then plugged with cement and inert mud to surface. After abandonment, the well head will be removed, and any remaining well casings and surface conductors will be cut. Once the well area is clean, it will have suitable fill placed and compacted. The well area will be encapsulated with impermeable concrete to seal the area. The well is situated within an established oil field setting on private land.

CalGEM has approved a task order for its contractor to perform the proposed work on the well listed below. A Notice of Intention will be issued to the contractor for administrative purposes only and does not constitute a discretionary approval.

API #	Well Name
0403709398	#5

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).

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies as the project would be conducted entirely on existing pads of sufficient space to contain all equipment, and existing roads to the pad would be utilized with no new disturbance. No impacts to biological resources are expected because abandonment activities would not disturb any undisturbed areas, and the pad is located within industrial, urban areas. Therefore, the 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 abandonment would not expand the facility and would be conducted in order to protect the surrounding natural resources and environment.

Class 7 and Class 8, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment (14 CCR §§ 15307, 15308): Orphan wells, due to their inherent lack of maintenance and open pipe to potential reservoir pressure and fluids, present an increased risk for potential leaks that could affect and impact natural resources and environment in the area. In addition, because the well is within 3,200 feet of residences, the increased risk of leaks of hazardous substances could negatively impact surrounding sensitive receptors. Orphan wells present an increased risk of leaks when compared to a properly abandoned well and therefore must be plugged and abandoned to minimize the potential threat of a release and subsequent impact. Abandonment of this orphan well would ensure that risks from leaks and potential impacts to natural resources and the environment are minimized to the extent feasible. Therefore, the Class 7 and Class 8 exemptions are potentially applicable.

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: _____ **Date:** 10/23/2025
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 Department of Conservation,
 Geologic Energy Management Division