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:** 713977_Bridge_OG_UIC

**Project Applicant:** Bridge Energy LLC

**Project Location:** Orange County, Brea-Olinda Oil Field; Section 07, Township 03S, Range 09W, Base SB; 33.92715381, -117.85588250

**Project Description:** The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit(s) for Bridge Energy LLC to rework the well listed below, in the Brea-Olinda Oil Field in Orange County. Bridge Energy LLC proposes to rework well "Stearns" 173. The following are the steps that will be taken. Move in temporary, necessary equipment on existing roads to an existing well pad to rework the well on the Stearns Lease to restore the well's previous production rate. No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required either. The rework proposed remediates a known integrity issue according to the approved program. Waste materials will be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste, as appropriate, at a facility licensed that accepts the waste. Project Duration: 9-15 days (dependent upon success of fishing operations and casing condition). The project location is inside of a designated oil-field boundary established before April 5, 1973 (pre-CEQA).

| API # | Well Name |
|---|---|
| 0405906928 | Stearns 173 |

**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 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):** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project is a repair or minor alteration of existing facilities and will not involve an expansion of use of the oil field and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review. Additionally, in accordance with 14 CCR § 1684.1 the Class 1 exemption consists of operation repair, maintenance, minor alternation of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously. This Class includes but is not limited to 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. The proposed rework will take place on an existing well, utilize existing roads and access pads, and remediate a known integrity issue on the oil well. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations as permitted by the PAL.

**Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):** Class 2 applies because it consists of "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." This work will take place on an existing well and there will be no expansion of existing or former use and no new facilities or infrastructure constructed. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations as permitted by the PAL.

**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 industrial area. 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." This rework will not expand the facility.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:** CalGEM further finds that there are no exceptions to the application of the categorical exemptions (PRC § 21084; 14 CCR § 15300.2 (c)) referenced above. 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. The approved project is within a Health Protection Zone (HPZ) as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3280(b). The HPZ does not present an unusual circumstance because SB 1137 (PRC § 3280 et seq.) requires all oil or gas production facilities or wells with a wellhead within an HPZ to comply with specified health, safety, and environmental requirements. In addition, CalGEM further finds that there are no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on the exemption(s) 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:** Signed by: Mila Galevski 8B8D5ECAB65E45C... **Date:** 11/20/2025

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division