

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: 769500_SoCalGas_UGS

Project Applicant: Southern California Gas Company

Project Location: Los Angeles County, Aliso Canyon Gas Field; Section 27, Township 03N, Range 16W, Base SB; 34.31345765, -118.53983580; TD is 1283' West, 493' North of Surface and near a canyon wash.

Project Description: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) proposes to workover a gas storage well. Proposed work will be performed using a service rig as well as temporary equipment such as a mud pump and return bins. Work will involve installing and cementing a new inner string, installing and gravel packing a new production liner, and installing a new completion tubing flow.

The gas storage well, Fernando Fee 32G, is located in Los Angeles County. The well site is located in Oat Mountain Quad on developed hillside terrain. The proposed work would take place on an existing well pad, which is flat, devoid of any vegetation, and is large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing roads. No permanent facilities will be constructed during the process, and no expansion of associated facilities will be required. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same capacity. There would be no new surface disturbance that would significantly impact biological resources or their habitat.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for Southern California Gas Company to rework the well listed below, in the Aliso Canyon Gas Field in Los Angeles County.

API #	Well Name
0403730374	Fernando Fee 32G

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Class 1: Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
<input checked="" 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 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 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 gas field beyond that existing previously, and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review. This includes "publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services." (14 CCR § 15301(b).) The project proposes to make minor alterations to an existing gas storage well by installing and cementing a new inner string, installing and gravel packing a new production liner, and installing a new completion tubing flow. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 applies because the proposed project 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." (14 CCR § 15302.) The project would reconstruct the casing of an existing gas storage well, which is located on an existing well pad. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same capacity.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies because 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." (14 CCR § 1684.2.) The proposed project would rework an existing gas storage well. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same capacity. The well is located on an existing well pad, which is large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing access roads. The project does not involve the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, there would be no new surface disturbance that would significantly impact the surrounding 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 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: Emma Brammer

Date: 03/16/26

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division