



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: 793380_36800001_SoCalGas_UGS

Project Applicant: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Project Location: Santa Barbara County, La Goleta Gas Field; Section 21, Township 04N, Range 28W, SB B&M; 34.42000938, -119.82224647; corner call is 1940.7' E, 457.24' N of Section 21.

Project Description: Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) proposes to rework one underground gas storage (UGS) well, Miller 12 with API 0408320757, located in the La Goleta Gas Storage field in Santa Barbara County. The rework would recover and replace the sand control liner and inspect the integrity of the well. The work would include pulling the 3-1/2" completion tubing and associated bottom hole assembly accessories, cleaning out the liner to bottom (if possible), recovering the gravel packed liner, cleaning out the openhole section (if possible), installing and gravel packing a new liner in the completion interval, running inspection logs to evaluate the 7" production casing, and pressure testing the production casing to meet the minimum pressure requirement = 2140 psi. New 3-1/2" tubing (to include a production packer and profile nipples) would be installed in the well.

The well would be returned to service and a noise/temperature survey run to verify no communication from the storage zone to the production casing x tubing annulus (7" x 3-1/2"). Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins would be needed. No permanent facilities would be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities would be required. There would be no new surface disturbance associated with the project that would result in significant impacts on biological resources and/or their habitat. Waste materials would be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste, as appropriate, at a facility licensed to accept the waste.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for SoCalGas to rework the well listed below, in the La Goleta Gas Field in Santa Barbara County.



API #	Well Name
0408320757	Miller 12

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 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): Class 1 consists of the “operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing previously.” (14 CCR § 1684.1.) This includes “publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services.” (14 CCR § 15301(b).) The proposed project involves minor alterations to an existing gas storage well by recovering and replacing the liner of an existing gas storage well, which is located on an existing well pad within an existing gas storage facility. The proposed rework activities would not result in the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. A CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work is within the scope of the approved UGS project 36800001 and would be a continuation of operations with no expansion. Therefore, the Class 1 exemption applies.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302): Class 2 consists of the “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 proposed project would recover and replace the liner of one existing gas storage well, which is located on an existing well pad. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. Therefore, the Class 2 exemption applies.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 consists of “drilling operations that result only in minor alterations with negligible or no permanent effects to the existing condition of the land, water, air, and/or vegetation.” (14 CCR § 1684.2; see also 14 CCR § 15304.) The proposed project would rework one existing gas storage well within an existing gas storage facility. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. The well is located on an existing well pad, which is large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and would be accessed by existing 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, and the Class 4 exemption applies.

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

