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: 817817_Group_CREH_OG

Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC (C0880)

Project Location: Kern County, Buena Vista Oil Field; 06/ 32S/ 24E/ MD; 35.17313385/ -119.43986511.

Project Description: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC is proposing to rework wells 336X-6D and 5B-6D in the Buena Vista Oil Field. The proposed project involves running and cementing an inner string of 5.5-inch casing and re-perforating the wells. The well depths are less than 3,500 feet. Temporary equipment for the project includes a workover rig, a wireline truck, and ancillary equipment. No new ground disturbance is proposed. The proposed project is located within Kern County, California, in an area where oil and gas exploration and production activities have historically occurred and are anticipated to continue. The project site lies within the San Joaquin Valley portion of Kern County, generally defined as lands below an elevation of 1,000 feet above mean sea level. The location and site access are consistent with the information provided in the County application materials.

The project site is located within the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is regulated by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The area is also located within the Tulare Lake Groundwater Basin, including the Kern River and Poso Hydrographic Units, which are subject to Regional Water Quality Control Board oversight. These environmental conditions are typical of areas supporting long-standing oil and gas operations in Kern County.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving two permits for California Resources Elk Hills to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Buena Vista Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403036847	Unspecified 336X-6D
0403034642	Unspecified 5B-6D

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 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 involves adding perforations of the existing well casing 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 conversions, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells involving the alteration of well casings, 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 work will be conducted on existing well casings and pads and will utilize existing access roads. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 08006009, 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. Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 08006009, 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." The rework would not expand the facilities.

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.opr.ca.gov

Certified: Signed by: Mila Galevski Date: 6/15/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division