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: 812422_45200001_Grouped__PGE_UGS

Project Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (P0300)

Project Location: San Joaquin County, McDonald Island Gas Oil Field; Section 25, Township 02N, Range 04E, Base MD; 37.99575806, -121.47742462; 1136' S & 93' W of N.E. corner Sec. 25

Project Description: PG&E plans to rework two wells to meet CalGEM Underground Gas Storage inspection and construction requirements as specified in 14 CCR § 1726. The proposed scope of work includes the following activities: retrieve existing tubing string and packer, retrieve production liner, perform casing integrity wireline surveys, replace existing wellhead, install new production liner and gravel pack, and install new tubing string and packer..

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 2 permit(s) for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (P0300) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the McDonald Island Gas Oil Field in San Joaquin County.

API #	Well Name
0407720257	Whiskey Slough 14-E
0407720188	Whiskey Slough 8-E

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 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 includes publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewage, or other public utility services (14 CCR 15301 (b)). The operator proposes to rework an existing gas storage well by retrieving existing tubing string, packer, and production liner, performing casing integrity wireline surveys, replacing existing wellhead, installing new

production liner and gravel pack, and installing new tubing string and packer. The wells will remain gas storage wells with substantially the same capacity.

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 includes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The project would rework the existing gas storage wells. The wells will remain gas storage wells with substantially the same capacity.

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.)." The proposed project would rework an existing gas storage well. The wells are located on existing well pads, which are 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. This exemption may be used when a project will involve minor and temporary surface ground disturbance.

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: Randall Jeffries **Date:** 7/17/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division