

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 **From:** Department of Conservation
State Clearinghouse 715 P Street, MS 1803
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814
Sacramento, CA 95814 **Contact:** CEQA@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 821410_HWOC_UIC

Project Applicant: Holmes Western Oil Corporation (H5200)

Project Location: Kern County, Midway-Sunset Oil Field; 17/11N/23W/SB; 35.03422270/
-119.35080790; 553' North and 602' West of Southeast corner of Section
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Project Description: HWOC proposes to rework existing well USL-17/GOVT 109 by adding perforations and returning the well to injection. The project is expected to take 2 days. All equipment will be contained within existing facilities and there will be no expansion of existing former use. Temporary equipment needed for the project includes a Production Rig, Rig Pump, Wireline Truck, Vacuum Truck, and Bins. Vehicles needed to transport personnel, deliver supplies and materials, and transport waste will also visit the project site.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving # permit(s) for Holmes Western Oil Corporation (H5200) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403069128	Govt 109

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 (<i>pre-CEQA approval on April 5, 1973</i>)	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. Holmes Western Oil Corporation proposes to rework existing well USL-17/GOVT 109 by adding perforations and returning the well to injection. All equipment will be contained within existing facilities and there will be no expansion of existing former use.

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[.]" All equipment will be contained within existing facilities and there will be no expansion of existing former use. The surrounding land use of the proposed project consists of developed oil and gas leases. There are no sensitive receptors within 3200 ft of the project site.

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/sidetrack would not expand the facility. The surrounding land use of the proposed project consists of developed oil and gas leases. There are no sensitive receptors within 3200 ft of the project site.

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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov>

Certified:  **Date:** 7/24/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division