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: 828994_Wild Goose_Rework_UGS

Project Applicant: Wild Goose Storage LLC (W2360)

Project Location: Butte County, Wild Goose Gas; 17/17N/01E/MD; 39.32418442, -121.88343811; 2876.1 ft W and 2977.0 ft S of the NE corner section 17-17N-1E MD

Project Description: Wild Goose Storage (WGS) proposes to repair well Wild Goose Gas Unit 2 WG29HZ within the Wild Goose Underground Natural Gas Storage Project. Per the CalGEM rules for Underground Gas Storage Projects that became effective October 1, 2018, WGS performed a casing inspection on well Wild Goose Gas Unit 2 WG30HZ in June 2025 and found some intervals that have exterior wall loss. The work was executed under Permit #7049442. WGS proposes to repair this well and return it to active gas storage operations. The permit from 2025 is closed; WGS is submitting a new NOI to perform this supplemental repair work. Proposed work will be performed using a service rig. The well is currently temporarily plugged and has a temporary tubing/kill string. Work will involve pulling the temporary plug, removing the kill string, and cementing a new liner to surface. A baseline inspection will be performed on the new liner. The well will then be re-configured by installing a tubing on packer assembly, followed by pressure test(s) to confirm the liner and tubing/packer integrity.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit(s) for Wild Goose Storage LLC (W2360) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Wild Goose Gas Hill Underground Gas Storage Project to address well integrity issues.

API #	Well Name
0400720107	Wild Goose Gas Unit 2 WG30HZ

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, sewerage, or other

public utility services (14 CCR 15301(b)). This existing well is on a single well pad within the Wild Goose Hill Underground Gas Storage Project. The well pad site is on private property accessible by private roads. The surrounding lands are used for hunting and agriculture.

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. This well is on a single existing pad within the Wild Goose Hill Underground Gas Storage Project. Proposed work activities involve replacement or reconstruction of existing infrastructure and/or equipment and will not change the former well use.

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 agricultural 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 facility.

Exceptions to Exemptions: CalGEM further finds that there are no exceptions to the application of the categorical exemptions (PRC § 21084; 14 CCR § 15300.2 (c)) referenced above. 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. The approved project is within a Health Protection Zone (HPZ) as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3280(b). The HPZ does not present an unusual circumstance because SB 1137 (PRC § 3280 et seq.) requires all oil or gas production facilities or wells with a wellhead within an HPZ to comply with specified health, safety, and environmental requirements. In addition, CalGEM further finds that there are no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on the exemption(s) 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:** 8/4/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division