



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: 819430_Grouped_Berry_UIC

Project Applicant: Berry Petroleum Company, LLC (B3930)

Project Location: Kern County, Midway-Sunset; 24/31S/22E/MD; 35.21128464-
119.56163788; 2275Wly alg sec 1n 751Nly at rt ang from SE cor Sec. 24
31/22

Project Description: CRC proposes to rework a total of 4 existing oil and gas well(s) in the existing and heavily developed Midway-Sunset Oil Field to continue oil and gas resource development. Proposed work activities include removing existing liners, replacing existing liners and gravel pack, installing inner casing strings as needed followed by casing pressure tests. Due to the proximity of the wells to each other in an already disturbed and densely developed and active Midway-Sunset Oil Field, they are grouped in one Administrative Grouping. The proposed Site for each rework operation will encompass an area of 100 feet by 200 feet (20,000 square feet, or 0.46 acres). The total area to be used in all proposed rework operations in this Administrative Grouping is approximately 80,000 sq. ft. (1.84 acres).

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 4 permits for Berry Petroleum Company, LLC (B3930) to rework the well(s) listed below, in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0403044834	Main Camp D-4
0403044835	MC-D-5
0403044836	MC-D-6
0403045718	MC-H-6



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.

Write a brief description of exemptions applied, including the Class and Statute consistent with the project. Use and/or modify examples below when applicable:

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. The well will maintain its existing well type and the use of the well will remain the same as before.

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[.]" Examples of Class 2 include, but are not limited to, "Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity." Additionally, a CalGEM engineer has confirmed that the proposed work would be a continuation of operations within UIC Project 46400396, as permitted by the PAL.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 exemption applies. The proposed project work will be conducted entirely on an existing pad of less than 0.5 acres (enough to contain all equipment). The proposed work would not disturb any undisturbed areas. The proposed work is located within an industrial area with actively permitted oil and gas operations. Therefore, the proposed work "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 and is conducted in order to maintain level of service.

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,



California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jennifer Lucchesi, Director

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:  **Date:** 8/4/2026
Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division