

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
4820 McGrath Street, Suite 210
Ventura, CA 93003

Contact: NorthernRecords@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title: 833290_Aera Energy LLC_WF

Project Applicant: Aera Energy LLC

Project Location: Ventura County, Ventura Field; Sec. 29, Twn. 03N, Rng. 23W, Base SB; Latitude:
34.31077576, Longitude: -119.30870819

Project Description:

Proposed Project: Aera Energy LLC proposes to rework Taylor 577-R (04-111-20545) located in the Ventura Oil Field in Ventura County, California. This well was drilled and completed as a water flood injector in 1974 and is currently active. The well is located within an established oilfield boundary, on a well-maintained existing well pad, and a well-maintained access road. Proposed project execution will require no new disturbance. No changes to the existing infrastructure will take place. The job will require approximately 10 to 15 days to complete. Produced water will be utilized for all well work by way of existing lines from the facilities to the well and fresh water will be transported in for cement blending. No new facilities are needed.

Environmental Setting: Established oil field. The surrounding land use around the proposed project consists of a developed oil field.

Potential Environmental Impacts: The well is outside the HPZ as litigated by Senate Bill 1137 and no unusual circumstances exist that would present a reasonable possibility of significant environmental effects. No vegetation will be disturbed by this project. There will be no increase in either the number or the capacity of flowlines.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for CalNRG Operating, LLC to rework the well(s) listed below, in the West Montalvo Oil Field.

API #	Well Name
0411120545	Taylor 577-R

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>) ☐ Ministerial ☐ Declared Emergency ☐ Emergency Projects	21169 21080 (b)(1) 21080 (b)(3) 21080 (b)(4)	15261 (b) 15268 15269 (a) 15269 (b) or (c)	
☒ Categorical Exemption: ☒ Class 1: Existing Facilities ☒ Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction ☐ Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures ☒ Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land ☐ Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources ☐ Class 8: Protection of the Environment ☐ Class 11: Accessory Structures ☐ Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit ☐ Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) ☐ Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects	21084	15301 15302 15303 15304 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330 15333	1684.1 1684.2
☐ 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):

Class 1 consists of the "operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration 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 "remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells involving the alteration of well casing, 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." (14 CCR §

1684.1.) The proposed project would make minor alterations to the well(s), resulting in negligible expansion of use beyond that existing previously. The proposed project and related permit approval is consistent with the laws that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, and the environment.

Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302):

Class 2 consists of the "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[.]" (14 CCR § 15302.) The proposed project would reconstruct the casing and wellbore(s) of existing wells. The work would take place on the existing wellbore(s) and well pads. The proposed work involves negligible change in use of the wells. The proposed project and related permit approval is consistent with the laws that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, and the environment.

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; see also 14 CCR § 15304.) The proposed project involves negligible or no vegetation removal, expansion of the existing well pads, and ground disturbance. Therefore, there would be no surface disturbance related activities that would significantly disturb the surrounding environment. The proposed project and related permit approval is consistent with the laws that govern the operations, including statutory and regulatory provisions that protect public health, safety, and the environment.

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 District office, located at 4820 McGrath Street, Suite 210, Ventura, CA 93003; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting NorthernRecords@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>.

Certified:

Chris Alcock

Date:

8/4/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division