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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
195 S Broadway, Suite 101
Orcutt, CA 93455

**Contact:**
CalGEMNorthern@conservation.ca.gov

**Project Title:** NEWLOVE 271 REWORK

**Project Applicant:** Pacific Coast Energy Company LP

**Project Location:** Santa Barbara County, Orcutt Field; Section 25/Township 09N/Range34W/SB B&M; 34.82621002, -120.40637970

**Project Description:**

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit(s) for Pacific Coast Energy Company LP to perform rework work on the well(s) listed below, in the Orcutt Oil Field.

| API # | Well Name |
|---|---|
| 0408322703 | Newlove 271 |

This well is located on the Newlove lease within the Orcutt Hill Oil Field boundaries in Santa Barbara County and is currently an active cyclic steam injection and production well completed in the Diatomite Zone. This proposed rework will add 30 feet of new perforations within the Diatomite Zone, the same zone the well is already completed in.

This project will consist of minor site preparation and remediation work both prior to and post rig mobilization. Temporary equipment will be needed to complete the project which includes a backhoe, workover rig, pumps, water trucks, cement trucks. In addition, vehicles to transport personnel, materials and to mobilize and demobilize equipment and waste will be utilized. No permanent facilities will be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities will be required. Any waste materials generated will be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste at a facility licensed to accept the waste. All work will take place within the Newlove 271 location and the roads leading to and from that location.

The project site and surrounding area consist of a graded pad, wells and flowlines, oilfield equipment, and roadways with areas of undisturbed vegetation. Rural farm and

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ranch lands surround the location which resides within the Orcutt Hill Oil Field boundaries.

**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.

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**Class 1, Existing Facilities (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1):** The "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption is applicable per the CEQA Guidelines and CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR § 1684.1) because the proposed work consists of repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of an existing previously permitted well involving no expansion of former use. The Class includes, but is not limited to: remedial, maintenance, conversion, and abandonment work on oil, gas, injection, and geothermal wells. The well would maintain its existing well type and the use of the well would 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." The proposed project is the rework of the existing wellbore which is needed to add perforations within the same completion zone. The reworked well will be located on the same site and would have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the well did before the rework. Additionally, no additional construction will occur.

**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 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) 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 Notice of Exemption (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at CalGEM's Northern District Orcutt office, located at 195 S Broadway, Suite 101, Orcutt, CA 93455; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov.

**Certified:** _____ **Date:** 8/10/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division