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: 832970_CalNRG_OG

Project Applicant: CalNRG Operating, LLC

Project Location: Ventura County, West Montalvo; Sec. 36, Twn. 02N, Rng. 23W, Base SB; Latitude: 34.21005630, Longitude: -119.24395752

Project Description:

Proposed Project: CalNRG proposes to rework McGrath 5 915 (04-111-00811) located in the Montavlo West Oil Field in Ventura County, California. This well was drilled and completed as a producer in 1955 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. Environmentally sensitive as they meet the definition of being within the Coastal Zone, or less than 1000 yards from the ocean. The surrounding land use around the proposed project consists of a developed oil field.

Potential Environmental Impacts: Operation of the wells has been subject to all provisions of Senate Bill 1137 for existing wells located within designated health protection zones since June 2024 and would continue to operate in accordance with these regulations. Therefore, 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
0411100811	McGrath 5 915

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):
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: Jeffrey Whitson **Date:** 08/11/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division