



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: 731669_7080303_CalNRG_UIC

Project Applicant: California Natural Resources Group (CalNRG)

Project Location: Ventura County, Shiells Canyon Oil Field; Section 04, Township 03N,
Range 19W, Base SB; 34.374611, -118.877022

Project Description: California Natural Resources Group's (CalNRG) project application seeks approval to modify Underground Injection Control (UIC) Project Number 7080303 located within the Shiells Canyon Oil Field in Ventura County. CalNRG proposes to increase the maximum injection rate and volume from 1,500 to 3,950 BWPD into a single disposal injection well, Shiells 1P-4 (API 0411122188). The Project Approval Letter (PAL) for existing UIC Project No. 7080303 (dated September 13, 2013), as well as the PAL modification approval to inject water produced from the Bardsdale Oilfield into the Saugus Formation (dated October 31, 2024), assumes an injection rate and volume of 1,500 barrels of water per day (BWPD), as outlined in the original UIC project application.

This injection rate and volume increase would not require any modifications to the well, surface facilities, well pads, or subsurface completion configurations, because established pipelines and injection facilities will be utilized. In addition, while the injection rate and volume would be increased, the maximum allowable surface pressure and area of review per the current PAL would remain unchanged.

The California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) is issuing an updated PAL to CalNRG for the modification of UIC Project No. 7080303 that may impose additional conditions of approval that will improve the safety and function of the existing project without expanding existing operations. The list of injection well(s) that would be associated with the modified UIC project are listed below.



Project Well(s):

- Shiells 1P-4, API# 0411122188

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).

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.

Exempt Status:

☐ **Statutory Exemption(s):**

- ☐ Ongoing Project (PRC § 21169 and 14 CCR § 15261 (b))
- ☐ Ministerial (PRC § 21080 (b)(1) and 14 CCR § 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR § 15269 (a))
- ☐ Emergency Projects (PRC § 21080 (b)(4) and 14 CCR § 15269 (b) or (c))

☒ **Categorical Exemption(s):**

- ☒ Class 1, Existing Facilities (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1)
- ☐ Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (14 CCR § 15302)
- ☐ Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (14 CCR § 15303)
- ☒ Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2)
- ☐ Class 6, Information Collection (14 CCR § 15306)
- ☐ Class 11, Accessory Structures (14 CCR § 15311)
- ☐ Class 21, Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit (14 CCR § 15321)
- ☐ Class 30, Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) (14 CCR § 15330)
- ☐ Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects (14 CCR § 15333)

☐ **General Exemption:** (14 CCR §§ 1501 (b)(3))

☐ **Not a "Project" subject to CEQA:** (14 CCR §§ 15378 (b) (2))

Class 1, Existing Facilities (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1): Class 1 applies because the proposed project seeks modification of the current PAL to allow for an increase in the injection rate and volume into an existing disposal injection well associated with the existing UIC project. 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." (14 CCR §§ 15301, 1684.1.) The project would modify an existing UIC project by increasing the maximum injection rate and volume into an existing disposal injection well, which is actively injecting fluids. This is a negligible change in use that would not require alterations to the casing of the well nor increase the area of review or maximum allowable surface pressure. The project is located in an area with existing injection activities. The proposed project and related approval are contingent upon CalGEM's and the Water Board's technical reviews and demonstrations that injected fluid will be confined to the approved injection zone prior to approval.

Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (14 CCR §§ 15304, 1684.2): Class 4 applies because there would be no new surface disturbance that could significantly impact biological resources or their habitat. 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.) The proposed project would include minor changes to the current PAL and no modifications to the existing disposal injection well. The increase in injection rate and volume into the well would not increase the area of review or maximum allowable surface pressure. The proposed project and related approval are contingent upon CalGEM's and the Water Board's technical reviews and demonstrations that injected fluid will be confined to the approved injection zone prior to approval. In addition, the well is located on an existing well pad that is large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing roads. The project does not involve the construction of new facilities.

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. CalGEM has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions apply because approved injection is already occurring, existing UIC well infrastructure will be utilized and unchanged, and there will be no new ground disturbance.

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.lci.ca.gov>

Certified: Emma Brammer Date: 09/23/26
Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division