



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: 836544_36800001_SoCalGas_UGS

Project Applicant: Southern California Gas Company

Project Location: Santa Barbara County, La Goleta Gas Field; Section 21, Township 04N,
Range 28W, SB; (34.41849774, -119.82627849)

Project Description: Southern California Gas Company has proposed to rework UGS well Miller 8, API #04-083-03411. The well is located in the La Goleta Gas Storage field in Santa Barbara County. The rework would punch and inject resin into the annulus to mitigate pressure buildup and inspect the integrity of the well. The work would include pulling the 3-1/2" completion tubing and associated BHA accessories, cleaning out the liner to bottom (if possible), running diagnostic logs to evaluate source(s) of annular pressure buildup in the 8-5/8" x 6-5/8" annulus, running a Punch-and-Inject tool, and injecting resin into the annulus.

After resin injection, an assessment of the injection well would involve running inspection logs to evaluate the 6-5/8" production casing and pressure testing the production casing to meet the minimum pressure requirement (2140 psi). New 3-1/2" tubing (to include a SSSV, a production packer and profile nipples) would be installed in the well. The well would be returned to service, and a noise/temp survey would be run to verify no communication from the storage zone to the production casing x tubing annulus (6-5/8" x 3-1/2").

Temporary equipment such as pumps and return bins would be needed. No permanent facilities would be constructed. No expansion of associated facilities would be required. Waste materials would be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste, as appropriate, at a facility licensed to accept the waste.

The proposed work is expected to last between 45 and 60 days, with variance depending on the amount of fill and/or sand that the operator would need to cleanout in the wellbore, and the amount of resin injection intervals to complete as determined by log interpretations and vendor recommendations.



The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving 1 permit for Southern California Gas Company to rework the well listed below, in the La Goleta Gas Field in Santa Barbara County.

Project Well:

- Miller 8, API # 04-083-03411

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 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 § 1684.1). The operator proposes to make minor alterations to an existing gas storage well within an existing gas storage facility by recovering and replacing the liner, and by testing the integrity of the well. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. Therefore, the Class 1 Exemption applies.

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 recover and replace the liner of one existing gas storage well, which is located on an existing well pad. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. Therefore, the Class 2 exemption applies.

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 §§ 15304, 1684.2). The proposed project would rework one existing gas storage well within an existing gas storage facility. The well would remain a gas storage well with substantially the same purpose and capacity. The well is located on an existing well pad, which is large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and would be accessed by existing roads. The project does not involve the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, there would be no new surface disturbance that would significantly impact the surrounding environment, and the Class 4 exemption applies.

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, 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: Kyle Lackey

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division

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