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
3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 400
Long Beach, CA 90806
**Contact:** CalGEMSouthern@conservation.ca.gov

**Project Title:** 5 Well Rework Program at Piers B, F, S, & T within Tidelands Operating Areas

**Project Applicant:** Tidelands Oil Production Co. (Tidelands, T2975)

**Project Location:** Pier T, Wilmington, Onshore; Section 10/Township 05S/ Range 13W/B&M: SB; Lat: 33.75502777 / Long: -118.22073364

**Project Description**
Tidelands proposes to rework existing waterflood (WF) well OST-001 in the Wilmington Field; the well is located on Pier T. The reworks consist of cement squeezes within the existing wellbore and fall under Group B of CalGEM's rework exemptions guidance document published in December 2023.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving permit # 7057862 for Tidelands Oil Production Co. to rework the well listed below, in the Wilmington Oil Field.

| API # | Well Name |
|---|---|
| 0403729977 | OST-011 |

**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 | |

| Exemption Type | | Statute (PRC) | Regulation (14 CCR) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | 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.

**Classes 7 and 8, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and the Environment (14 CCR §§ 15307, 15308):** Class 7 and Class 8 exemptions apply. The exemptions are for actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by law to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of a natural resource or the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment." As demonstrated in the record, the proposed project involves remedial/rework operations to address well integrity issues that requires swift action for protection of a natural resource 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 (c)) referenced above. 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. The approved project is within a Health Protection Zone (HPZ) as defined by Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3280(b). The HPZ does not present an unusual circumstance because SB 1137 (PRC § 3280 et seq.) requires all oil or gas production facilities or wells with a wellhead within an HPZ to comply with specified health, safety, and environmental requirements. In addition, CalGEM further finds that there are no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place. Therefore, reliance on the exemption(s) 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 Southern District,

located at 3780 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 400, Long Beach, CA 90806; by calling: (562) 637-4400; or an electronic copy of these documents may be requested by contacting CalGEMSouthern@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov

**Certified:** Salma Khatun **Date:** 10/23/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division