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:** 813320_45200001_PG&E_UGS

**Project Applicant:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (P0300)

**Project Location:** San Joaquin County, McDonald Island Gas Oil Field; Section 25, Township 02N, Range 04E, Base MD; 37.99212265/-121.48822021; 2540' S & 3187'W of N.E. Corner Sec 25

**Project Description:** PG&E plans to rework one well to meet CalGEM's Underground Gas Storage inspection and construction requirements as specified in 14 CCR § 1726. The proposed scope of work includes the following activities: retrieve existing tubing string, perform casing integrity wireline surveys, and install new tubing string.

The proposed project will require, at a minimum, the following equipment: workover rig (double), mud pumps, cuttings bin, blowout prevention equipment and accumulator, generator, fuel tanks, fluid tanks, and light towers. All equipment will be staged and operated within the existing facility footprint and existing roadways will be used for access. This includes all ancillary equipment which may be required such as pump trucks, vac trucks, and casing storage. No new surface construction activities are planned with the rework. No new permanent facilities will be constructed and no expansion to associated facilities or roadways will be required. The project is anticipated to last from May to November 2026. The well will be returned to service as a gas storage well with no change or expansion of existing use.

Waste material will be properly disposed of as non-hazardous or hazardous waste at a facility licensed to accept the waste. Secondary containment will be utilized for liquid HazMat's and workover fluids. No erosion controls will be required as these sites are all graveled. Water will be applied as mitigation for dust suppression from vehicle traffic.

The proposed project consists of the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) approving a permit for Pacific Gas and Electric

Company (P0300) to rework the well listed below, in the McDonald Island Gas Oil Field in San Joaquin County.

| API # | Well Name |
|---|---|
| 0407700091 | Weyl-Zuckerman 1 |

**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) | |

| Exemption Type | Statute (PRC) | Regulation (14 CCR) |
|---|---|---|
| **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):** The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR § 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project is a repair or minor alteration of existing facilities and will not involve an expansion of use of the oil field, and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review. Additionally, in accordance with 14 CCR § 1684.1 the Class 1 exemption consists of operation, repair, maintenance, minor alternation 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 publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewage, or other public utility services (14 CCR 15301 (b)). The well will remain a gas storage well with substantially the same capacity.

**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." This includes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. The project would rework an existing gas storage well on an already established well pad. The well will remain a gas storage well with substantially the same capacity.

**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.)." The proposed project would rework an existing gas storage well. The wells are located on existing well pads, which are large enough to accommodate the necessary equipment and can be accessed by existing access 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. This exemption may be used when a project will involve minor and temporary surface ground disturbance.

**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.opr.ca.gov

**Certified:** Randall Jeffries **Date:** 10/27/2026

Department of Conservation,
Geologic Energy Management Division