

State of California  
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

**California Environmental Quality Act**  
**Notice of Exemption**

2019029438

**To:** Office of Planning & Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Conservation  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
801 K Street, MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Larry Kleinecke, (916) 445-9686

**State Clearinghouse #:**

**Project Title:** OG Berry 3 Wells 02222019  
**Project Applicant:** Berry Petroleum Co. LLC  
**Project Location:** Midway-Sunset Oil Field

County: Kern Section: 02  
Township: 31S Range/Baseline: 22E / MD B&M  
Latitude/Longitude: 35.25537000 /-119.57679800

**Project Description:** The proposed project consists of drilling three new oil and gas wells in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field in Kern County. The well names and API numbers of the wells are listed below. The proposed project is located in an established, high-density oil field, and in an area with surface and mineral rights owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). DOGGR has issued a permit for the well and notified BLM of the permit.

API#	Well Name
0403065617	VP-6
0403065629	VP-3
0403065630	VP-4

Details on well locations can be found on the Division's website at:  
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx>

**Exempt Status:** As Lead Agency, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division), has determined that the proposed project is exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to the specified exemptions marked in the section below. The Division 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 exemptions apply (14 CCR 15300.2).

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 22 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Statutory Exemption:</b>			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA approval prior to April 5, 1973)	21169	15261(a) or (b)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial	21080 (b)(1)	15268	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency	21080 (b)(3)	15269 (a)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects	21080 (b)(4)	15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Categorical Exemption:</b>	21084		
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 1:</b> Existing Facilities		15301	1684.1
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 3:</b> New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 4:</b> Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 7:</b> Protection of Natural Resources		15307	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 8:</b> Protection of the Environment		15308	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 11:</b> Accessory Structures		15311	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 21:</b> Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit		15321	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 30:</b> Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)		15330	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Class 33:</b> Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exemption</b> ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not a "Project" subject to CEQA</b>		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 the Division's determination that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

**15261(b) – Ongoing Project:** The Division has determined that the project is statutorily exempt under the Ongoing Project (14 CCR 15261(b)) exemption per the CEQA guidelines because the Division identified the Midway-Sunset Oil Field and issued permits in this oil field pre-CEQA (prior to April 5, 1973). Additional permits issued in the developed areas of the Midway-Sunset Oil Field are considered part of an ongoing project and exempt from further CEQA reviews.

**Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land:** The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR 15304) exemption per CEQA guidelines and per DOGGR regulations (14 CCR 1684.2) because the proposed project is located on previously graded or otherwise recently disturbed land within a densely developed oil field.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:** The Division further finds that there are no exceptions to the otherwise-applicable categorical exemptions (PRC §21084; 14 CCR 15300.2(c)). 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 is no significant "cumulative impacts" resulting from successive projects of the same type in the same place.

A copy of this NOE (as required by 14 CCR 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources/CEQA Unit, located at 801 K Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, Sacramento, CA 95812; or an electronic copy of these documents may be accessed online at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/CEQA>

Certified:   
 Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
 CEQA Unit

Date: 2/22/2019