

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

California Environmental Quality Act **2019038147**
Notice of Exemption

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 SME 2 Wells 03082019

Project Applicant: Santa Maria Energy, LLC

Project Location: Orcutt Oil Field

County: Santa Barbara Section: 31

Township: 09N Range/Baseline: 33W / SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 34.814004 /-120.394265

Project Description: The proposed project consists of drilling two new oil and gas wells in the Orcutt Oil Field in Santa Barbara County. The well names and API numbers are listed below. The proposed project is located in an established, high-density oil field and exempt from local CEQA requirements.

| API# | Well Name |
|------------|-----------|
| 0408322960 | D-4 |
| 0408322961 | D-3 |

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

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| Exemption Type | Statute (PRC) | Regulation (14 CCR) | |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption: | | | |
| <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"/> Categorical Exemption: | 21084 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities | | 15301 | 1684.1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures | | 15303 | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land | | 15304 | 1684.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources | | 15307 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment | | 15308 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures | | 15311 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit | | 15321 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) | | 15330 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects | | 15333 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Exemption ("common sense") | | 15061 (b)(3) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

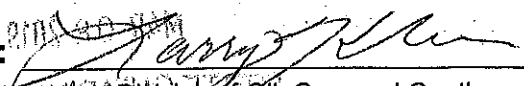
The basis for the Division's determination that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

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 Orcutt 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 Orcutt 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, 14th 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: 3/8/2019