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

California Environmental Quality Act

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 & Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: M. Meraz (916) 445-9686

Project Title: UIC Macpherson 62809023

Project Applicant: Macpherson Oil Company

Project Location: Round Mountain Oil Field

County: Kern Section: 7, 17, 18, 19,20, 29

Township: T28S Range/Baseline: R29E / MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude:

Project Description: Macpherson Oil proposes to modify UIC project Pyramid Hill PAL # 62809023 to include Phase 7, which plans to convert up to 260 existing wells to Pyramid Hill Injectors. In addition to existing well conversions, Macpherson Oil plans to drill up to an additional 220 new vertical injection wells to fill gaps in well spacing. The project spans both Kern County and BLM lands.

For the portion of the project located in Kern County, DOGGR recognizes Kern County as the Lead Agency. Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared and certified by the Lead Agency, Kern County Planning and Community Development Department, for the project "Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance – 2015 (C), Focus on Oil and Gas Local Permitting" (SCH# 2013081079). The EIR for the project was approved on November 9, 2015 and became effective on December 9, 2015. During the review and approval process for this project activity, DOGGR considered the environmental impacts of the project, as shown in the EIR prepared by the Lead Agency, and accepts the determinations made by the Lead Agency.

However, in permitting the whole of the project, DOGGR chose the role of Lead Agency, and as such, has prepared a Notice of Exemption which can apply to both Kern County and BLM lands.

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 the 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).

	Exemption Type	Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
☐	**Statutory Exemption:**			
	☑ Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA. Approval prior to 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 3**: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures		15303	
	☐ **Class 4**: Minor Alterations to Land		15304	1684.2
	☐ **Class 6:** Information Collection		15306	
	☐ **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 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 Round Mountain oil field and issued permits in this oil field pre-CEQA (prior to April 5, 1973). Additional permits issued in this developed area of the Round Mountain oil filed are considered part of an ongoing project and exempt from further CEQA reviews.

Class 1 – Existing Facility: The Division has determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines and per DOGGR's regulations (14 CCR §1684.1) because the proposed activity involves converting up to 260 existing wells in an existing underground injection control project to produce oil.

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. Therefore, this project is not subject to CEQA.

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: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/

Certified: Mei A. Mera **Date:** September 26, 2019

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
CEQA Unit