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 Trio Petroleum 44800005

Project Applicant: Trio Petroleum, LLC

Project Location: McCool Ranch Oilfield

County: Monterey Section: 23 & 26

Township: ______ 22S ____ Range/Baseline: ____ 10E / MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude:

Project Description:

The project proposal is to resume cyclic steam operations in the aquifer-exempt Lombardi Sand in the McCool Ranch Oilfield located in Monterey County, California.

Project elements include: 1) producing heavy oil and associated water from the exempt

Lombardi Sand and; 2) cyclic steam injection into the exempt Lombardi Sand.

The project is located in an existing pre-CEQA Oil Field. A Use Permit was granted by

Monterey County in April 1949 for oil extraction activities. Resolution #631.

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 (1	4 CCR)
Statut	ory Exemption:			
\square	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)	
Cate	gorical Exemption:	21084		
\square	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 6: Information Collection		15306	
	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		15330	
	Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material)			
	Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects		15333	
Gene	ral Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
Not a	"Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	

<u>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions (14 CCR 15300.2)</u>: 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 McCool Ranch 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 McCool Ranch 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 resuming cyclic steam operations by using existing wells in an existing underground injection control project to produce oil. A Use Permit was granted per Resolution #631 for oil extraction activities by Monterrey County in April 1949.

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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov/

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Certified:	Mei A. Meras	Date:	October 8, 2019	
_	Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources	_		
	CEQA Unit			