

State of California
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT

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
Geologic Energy Management Division
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: M. Meraz (916) 445-9686

Project Title: GEO Geysers LF 51

Project Applicant: Geysers Power Company, LLC

Project Location: Geysers geothermal field

County: Sonoma

Section: 20

Township: 11N

Range/Baseline: 8W / MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 38.793228, -122.761919

Project Description: The project consists of drilling a grassroots injection well (LF-51) approximately 9,850 feet deep on the existing Angeli drill pad.

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 Geologic Energy Management (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)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory Exemption: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Project (<i>pre-CEQA. Approval prior to April 5, 1973</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Projects	21169 21080 (b)(1) 21080 (b)(3) 21080 (b)(4)	15261 (b) 15268 15269 (a) 15269 (b) or (c)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Categorical Exemption: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 1: Existing Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land <input type="checkbox"/> Class 6: Information Collection <input type="checkbox"/> Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Class 8: Protection of the Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Class 11: Accessory Structures <input type="checkbox"/> Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit <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) <input type="checkbox"/> Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects	21084	15301 15303 15304 15306 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330 15333	1684.1 1684.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Exemption ("common sense")		15061 (b)(3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA		15378 (b)(2)	
<u>CEQA Exceptions to the Exemptions</u> (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 project is statutorily exempt from CEQA under the Ongoing Project exemption. (PRC 21169; 14 CCR 15261(b)) Sonoma County recognized the Geysers geothermal field in a Use Permit for Union Oil Company of California in Resolution #2180 on October 19, 1967, which was approved prior to April 5, 1973 (pre-CEQA). The Division has continued to permit approvals for geothermal activities within this field before April 5, 1973 and those permit approvals occurring after that date, and therefore do not involve a greater degree of responsibility or control over the project as a whole than did the prior approvals.

Class 1 – Existing Facility: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 1" (14 CCR §15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines and per CalGEM's regulations (14 CCR §1684.1) because the well will be installed within an existing geothermal field and involves no expansion of use of the geothermal field.

Class 4 – Minor Alterations to Land: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the "Class 4" (14 CCR 15304) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the project involves the minor alteration of the condition of land and/or vegetation on an existing pad in and existing geothermal field and does not require the removal of healthy, mature scenic trees.

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's CEQA Unit, located at 801 K Street, 14th floor, Sacramento, CA 95812; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>; and/or the Division's website at <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA/Pages/CEQANotices.aspx>

Certified: *Mari A. Meraz*
Geologic Energy Management
CEQA Unit

Date: January 28, 2020