

Notice of Exemption**- 1 -****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
 For U.S. Mail:
 P.O. Box 3044
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Central Region
 1234 East Shaw Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93710

**Street Address:**

1400 Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company Cymric Surface Expression Emergency Cleanup Major Amendment No. 2 (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-034-04 (ITP))

Project Location: The Cymric Surface Expression Emergency Cleanup Project is located within existing California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGem) Administrative Boundaries of the Cymric Oil Field in western Kern County, California. The Project is approx. 4 miles northwest of the town of McKittrick in Township 30 South, Range 21 East, Section 1, Township 29 South, Range 21 East, Section 36, and Township 29 South, Range 22 East, Section 31. The Project is specifically within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 156 040-03 and 099-310-44, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map Reward, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) approved by CDFW consists of the ITP, Major Amendment No. 1, and Major Amendment No. 2 to permit Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company to incidentally take giant kangaroo rat which is designated as an endangered species under CESA, and San Joaquin antelope squirrel and San Joaquin kit fox which are designated as a threatened species under CESA. (Fish & G. Code § 2050 et seq.; see Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5, subd. (a)(6)(D), (b)(6)(B) and (b)(6)(E), respectively).

The Project includes activities necessary to cleanup surface expressions which began May 10, 2019 and released crude oil and produced water into a nearby dry stream. Major Amendment No. 2 makes six changes to the ITP. Amendment No. 2 makes five specific changes to the ITP, as amended. Amendment No. 2 extends the expiration date of the ITP, as amended, from March 1, 2020 to October 1, 2020, adds a new access road to the Project Description which increases the overall Project footprint from 29.53 acres to 30.8 acres, increases the total impact to Covered Species from 8.43 acres to 8.64 acres, increases the amount of required HM Lands from 12.65 to 12.96 acres, and increases the Performance Security to adequately fund the increased HM Lands requirement.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company, Robert Fragione, San Joaquin Valley Business Unit Operations Manager. 9525 Camino Media, Bakersfield, California 93311

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption. California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269, subdivision (c); Public Resources Code Sec. 21080, subdivision (b)(4)
 Categorical Exemption.

Reasons why project is exempt: See Attachment

CDFW Contact Person: Annee Ferranti (Environmental Program Manager), 559-243-4005, extension 141

DocuSigned by:
 Signature:  Date: 3/18/2020
 FA83F09FE08945A...
 Julie A. Vance,
 Regional Manager, Central Region
 Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date received for filing at OPR: **MAR 19 2020**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Attachment to Notice of Exemption

California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-034-04 Major Amendment No. 2 North America Exploration and Production Company Cymric Surface Expression Emergency Cleanup

Approval of this Project is subject to the statutory exemption for “Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency” (Emergency Project; Pub. Resources Code, §21080, subd. (b)(4)) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, §21000 et seq.). “Emergency” is defined as “A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services” (Pub. Resources Code, §21060.3).

The Project includes activities necessary to cleanup surface expressions which began May 10, 2019 and released crude oil and produced water into a nearby dry stream. On August 23, 2019, the Permittee requested Amendment No. 1 for a change to the Project location and description to add another Work Area to the Project Area, the 31X Portable Tank Storage Area, located in Township 29 South, Range 22 East, Section 31, approximately 0.70 miles northeast of the cleanup Work Area. Amendment No. 1 was issued on August 30, 2019. On February 21, 2020, Chevron sent a request by email that included an extension to the expiration date and modified the project description to add a new access road needed to complete cleanup. This change will increase the total Project footprint by 1.27 acres and the impacts to the Covered Species habitat will increase by 0.21 acre.

CDFW has determined that although Amendment No. 2 may result in an increase in take of the Covered Species and increased Covered Species habitat impacts, the additional impacts of the taking will be minimized and fully mitigated through implementation of the Conditions of Approval. Because the impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated, there will be no increase in Project impacts to the Covered Species with Amendment No. 2. Impacts will be minimized and fully mitigated through the implementation of measures required by Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2019-034-04, as amended. Measures include: 1) Weekly Compliance Reports; 2) establishment of avoidance zones; 3) worker education; and 4) permanent habitat protection.