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

## 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: Larry Kleinecke, (916) 445-9686

Project Title: OG CRPC 0403067904

Project Applicant: California Resources Production Corporation

Project Location: Wheeler Ridge Oil Field

 County:
 Kern
 Section:
 28

 Township:
 11N
 Range/Baseline:
 20W / MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 35.015245, -119.021446

**Project Description:** 

The proposed project consists of drilling one new well in the Wheeler Ridge Oil Field in the Kern County. The proposed well is located in a developed oil field, within a parcel under active oil production, and in an area with surface and mineral rights owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). CalGEM has issued a permit for the well and notified BLM of the permits.

API# Well Name

Wheeler Ridge 201-28 0403067904

> Details on well locations can be found on CalGEM's website at: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx

**Exempt Status:** 

As the Lead Agency, the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) 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. CalGEM 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 15300.21.

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)			
Ø	Statutory Exemption:  ☐ Ongoing Project (pre-CEQA. Approval prior to April 5, 1973) ☐ Ministerial ☐ Declared Emergency ☐ Emergency Projects	21169 21080 (b)(1) 21080 (b)(3) 21080 (b)(4)	15261 (b) 15268 15269 (a) 15269 (b) or (c)			
	Categorical Exemption:  ☐ Class 1: Existing Facilities ☐ Class 3: New Construction/Conversion of Small Structures ☐ Class 4: Minor Alterations to Land ☐ Class 6: Information Collection ☐ Class 7: Protection of Natural Resources ☐ Class 8: Protection of the Environment ☐ Class 11: Accessory Structures ☐ Class 21: Enforcement Actions to revoke a permit Class 30: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate a Release (Actual or Threat) of Hazardous Substances (Waste or Material) ☐ Class 33: Small Habitat Restoration Projects	21084	15301 15303 15304 15306 15307 15308 15311 15321 15330	1684.1 1684.2		
			15061 (b)(3)			
Ш	Not a "Project" subject to CEQA					

<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 CalGEM'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)) because CalGEM identified administrative boundaries of the Wheeler Ridge oil & gas field that were approved prior to April 5, 1973 (pre-CEQA). CalGEM permit approvals for oil & gas activities within this field occurred before April 5, 1973 and those permit approvals occurring after that date 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 oil field and involves no expansion of use of the oil 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 within a densely developed oil field and does not require the removal of healthy, mature scenic trees.

**Exceptions to Exemptions:** CalGEM 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 CalGEM'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://ceganet.opr.ca.gov; and/or CalGEM's website at http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA

Certified:	Larry Eleinete	Date:	
	Geologic Energy Management Division		
	CEQA Unit		