## 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**: Tharon Wright, (916) 445-9686

**Project Title:** OG 9 Wells 07312020

Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC

Project Location: Railroad Gap Oil Field

County: Kern Section: 15

Township: \_\_\_\_\_30S Range/Baseline: \_\_ 22E / MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 35.31765300, -119.59673900

**Project Description:** 

The proposed project consists of drilling nine new wells in the Railroad Gap Oil Field in Kern County. The proposed wells are located on an existing pad in a densely developed oil field, within a parcel under active oil production and is consistent with Kern County's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

API#	Well Name	API #	Well Name
0403068911	Unspecified 15HA-15Z	0403068915	90286291-12HA-15Z
0403068917	90286291-1HA-15Z	0403068919	90286291-2HA-15Z
0403068918	90286291-10HA-15Z	0403068920	90286291-8HA-15Z
0403068912	90286291-4HA-15Z	0403068921	90286291-11HA-15Z
		0403068916	90288657-9HA-15Z

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

**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 15300.2).

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)		
	Sta	lutory 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)	
	Cal	egorical 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)	

<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 Railroad Gap 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 wells 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.

Certified:	Tharon Wright	Date:				
at the State Clearinghouse: https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov;						
CEQA Unit, located at 801 K Street, 14th floor, Sacramento, CA 95812; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online						
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						

Geologic Energy Management Division
CEQA Unit