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 Holmes 0403068908

Project Applicant: Holmes Western Oil Corporation

Project Location: Midway-Sunset Oil Field

County: Kern Section: 04

Township: 11N Range/Baseline: 23W / SB B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 35.06564134, -119.33319592

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of drilling one new well in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field in Kern County. The proposed project is in an area with surface and mineral rights owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). CalGEM has issued permits for the well and notified BLM of the permits.

API #	Well Name	
0403068908	90321986 - Transport 5	

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 15300.2).

Exemption Type		Statute (PRC)	Regulation (14 CCR)	
\square	Statutory 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)	
\square	Categorical 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			

<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 Midway-Sunset 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 DOGGR'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.

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Certified:	Thason Wright	Date:
	Geologic Energy Management Divisio CEQA Unit	n