

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Errin Briggs, Planning & Development

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 101-020-074

Case Nos.: 15EMP-00000-00001

Location: Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC) Orcutt Oil Field, 1555 Orcutt Hill Road, Orcutt

Project Title: PCEC Seep Can No. 95 Emergency Permit

Project Applicant: Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC) Orcutt Oil Field

Project Description:

Installation of an oil seep can to prevent the seepage of oil from impacting the environment. PCEC currently operates 96 existing oil wells using cyclic steaming under their existing Oil Drilling and Production Plan, Case No. 05PPP-00000-00001. On January 21, 2015, PCEC discovered an oil seep, removed contaminated soil and installed seep can #95 to control and contain the seep oil. A seep can is a corrugated metal pipe approximately 15 feet in length and 24 inches in diameter that is inserted into the ground to collect the seeping oil. Some seep cans include a French drain system to direct oil flow to the can. Oil that accumulates in the seep cans is either periodically pumped out with vacuum trucks, flows by gravity or is connected to a pump and flow line to an existing producing well. Installing the seep can collection system controls and contains the seeps to minimize potential impacts to sensitive biological resources and surface/groundwater quality. Approximately 5,900 square feet of surface area was disturbed to provide site access, to remove contaminated soil and install the seep can. These activities required approximately 135 cubic yards of cut and 40 cubic yards of fill. Approximately 5,900 square feet of vegetation was removed. No trees were removed. PCEC is proceeding in accordance with the interim seep response plan, being evaluated under their revised ODPP (13PPP-00000-00001) which sets forth procedures and protocols for monitoring, assessing, controlling, and reporting surface expressions and seeps occurring at the property.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John Fox, PCEC

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15269(c) – Emergency Projects, specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Reasons to support exemption findings: This section allows for emergency actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, in this case, control and contain oil seepage in order to minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources and surface/groundwater quality.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Errin Briggs Phone #: 568-2047

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.