

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2013 DEC 12 PM 4: 06

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Susan Curtis, Planning & Development

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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.:** 13EMP-00000-00004

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

**Project Title:** PCEC Seep Cans Emergency Permit

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

### **Project Description:**

Installation of seven seep cans to prevent the seepage of fluids from oil and gas wells 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. Between July 10, 2013 and November 26, 2013, PCEC cleared vegetation to gain access to discovered oil seeps, removed contaminated soils and installed seven seep cans (numbered 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93) to control and contain the seep oil without the necessary Planning and Development Department permits. The California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) requires remedial actions to reduce the occurrence of seeps and to control and contain the seeps that have occurred. This protocol includes installation of seep cans. 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 9,800 square feet of vegetation were disturbed to provide site access, to remove contaminated soil and install the seep cans. These activities required approximately 200 cubic yards of cut and 160 cubic yards of fill. No trees were removed. PCEC is proceeding in accordance with the Draft Supplemental Pollution Control Plan (May 25, 2012) 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: Susan Curtis Phone #: 568-3573

Department/Division Representative: Susan Curtis Date: 12/12/13

Acceptance Date: \_\_\_\_\_

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

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

**RECEIVED**  
**DEC 12 2013**  
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**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**