CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT 2019068086
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Permitting
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: California Resources Elk Hills 27R Hazardous Waste Trench Unit, Hazardous Waste Post-Closure Permit Renewal

Project Applicant: Jim Robinson, Vice President, California Resources Corporation

Project Location: 28590 Highway 119, Tupman, California, 93276

County: Kern County

Project Description:
Pursuant to the authority granted under the Health and Safety Code, sections 25100 et. seq. and California Code of Regulations, title 22, sections 66270.1 et. seq, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has approved renewal of the California Resources Elk Hills (CRC) Facility, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act-equivalent, Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit (Permit). This post-closure permit renewal addresses ongoing post-closure care and security of the 6.08-acre 27R Waste Management Unit (WMU) to comply with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 14, Article 7. The only change from the previous post-closure permit for CRC is an exemption from monitoring requirements under California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 14, Article 17 to remove the vadose zone (i.e. the soil zone between the surface and groundwater layers, beneath the engineered cap) moisture monitoring requirement.

Project Activities: The post-closure permit renewal includes the continuation of ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the post-closure facility. Primary responsibilities include monitoring and, when necessary, repairing the clean soil and clay cap on the surface impoundments. Monitoring includes regular pedestrian visual inspection for burrows or other changes and professional survey to identify any vertical or horizontal landform changes, such as subsidence. Secondary activities include ensuring security at the site.

Background:
The Elk Hills Oil Field was originally part of the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 (NPR-1). The property was owned by the United States Government and began operations under the Standard Oil Company in 1944. The 27R WMU consisted of five unlined surface impoundments (i.e. trenches) and was established in 1975 on land owned by the Department of Energy. The 27R WMU was operated by Williams Brothers Engineering Company until November 1985. Wastes received into the five-foot deep unlined surface impoundments included neutralized well stimulations fluids and tank bottom sediment.

A closure plan was submitted to the Department of Health Services (DHS), the predecessor to DTSC, in November 1986. A site characterization study was completed by the Mark Group in 1987 and test core hole drilled in 1990 to determine the utility of groundwater monitoring. A final closure plan for the 27R WMU was submitted December 1990 and approved by the DHS in May 1991 (SCH 1991032006 and 1991105231). The DHS' approval included a waiver from standard groundwater monitoring requirements based on the results of the Mark Group's characterization and test core hole studies.

Site closure activities began in 1991 following the approval of the closure plan. An engineered cap consisting of three layers was installed and enclosed in a fence. The three layers of the engineered cap, from surface to base, consist of: a surface layer of 1.5 feet of clean soil, a 2-foot thick clay layer, and five to ten feet of clean soil was installed and secured inside a fenced area. A neutron probe monitoring system was installed in 1992 and monitored until 1995 to monitor soil moisture in the vadose zone (i.e. the soil zone between the surface and groundwater layers, beneath the engineered cap). Monitoring was discontinued due to the inability to acquire comparable vadose zone monitoring data. On December 31, 1997, DTSC issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Post-Closure Permit after completing an Initial Study on May 6, 1997, and filing a Negative Declaration on October 31, 1997, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse (SCH 1997101080).

The vadose zone monitoring system has completed the function of monitoring cap integrity against moisture intrusion. Along with data on the surrounding soil, soil gas and air, DTSC is not requiring replacement of the vadose monitoring

system. No vadose zone moisture intrusion has been detected during any monitoring cycle, nor has the WMU experienced any physical changes as identified by professional survey.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC.

Exemption Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
- ☐ Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: [Class 1, CCR, Sec.15301]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
- ☐ General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Existing Facilities.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:
The vadose zone system can be discontinued without effecting the surrounding environment. The renewal of the Post Closure Permit will allow DTSC to continue monitoring the area. No new construction, expansion of monitoring systems, or other changes are included with this proposal.

DTSC has evaluated whether any of the exceptions to the categorical exemptions apply to this project, as described in Public Resources Code Section 21084(c), (d), and (e), and CEQA guidelines Section 15300.2. DTSC has determined that no exceptions to the categorical exemption apply to this project.

The administrative record for this project is available for inspection at:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Office of Permitting
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

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Project Manager Name	Project Manager Title	Phone #
Wayne Lorentzen		06/18/2019
Branch Chief Signature		Date
Wayne Lorentzen	Branch Chief	916-255-3749
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TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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