



## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Permanent Sealing of Orphan Well in Orange County Project. In accordance with Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15072 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice is to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties of the availability of the IS/MND and solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed project. Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15105.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Permanent Sealing of Orphan Well in Orange County Project involves the State of California's plugging and abandoning (permanent sealing) of one (1) orphan well in an unincorporated area of Orange County, California. The well, identified as Well #1, is in the Brea-Olinda Oil Field north of Brea, California. Permanent sealing refers to the permanent closure and sealing of a well by placing cement and other approved materials in the former well. The Project schedule for Well #1 is estimated to last from three to five days. For well permanent sealing, the well would be cleaned out and then plugged with cement and inert mud to surface. Then, the well casing would be cut down to approximately five to 10 feet below ground level, and the site would be backfilled with soil up to ground level. After completion of the permanent sealing operations, the disturbed areas utilized for site access, permanent sealing work, and temporary equipment staging areas would undergo restoration to align with the landscape of the surrounding environment. Permanent sealing work would require some vegetation clearance to allow staging of equipment. Estimated surface disturbance is approximately half an acre.

**LOCATION:** The proposed project is in unincorporated Orange County, California, approximately 2,000 feet from the nearest occupied structure in Brea and within the Brea-Olinda Oil Field (Section 2, Township 3S, Range 10W, San Bernardino Meridian). The proposed project is located on private land and is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5 [14 CCR § 15072(g)(5)].

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The IS/MND describes potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures have been included to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. All other resource areas evaluated were found to have no impact or to be less than significant.



**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** The Draft IS/MND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning **September 8, 2025**, and ending on **October 7, 2025**, pursuant to Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 14, § 15105. No public meetings are planned for the proposed project. Written comments should be submitted and received by **October 7, 2025**. Written comments should be sent to: California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), Attn: Permanent Sealing of Orphan Well in Orange County Project, 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814; or email comments to [Robert.Schaaf@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Schaaf@conservation.ca.gov).

**AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:** The Draft IS/MND is now available for public review at CalGEM 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814 during normal business hours. Additionally, the document is available for viewing on the following websites:

- CalGEM at: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/State-Abandonments.aspx> and
- Orange County Clerk-Recorder at: <https://cr.occlerkrecorder.gov/EirInternet> (NOI-A only).

Per CEQA Guidelines, CEQA Notices and Documents are submitted to the SCH and are available for inspection on CEQAnet at the following link: <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/>.

For any questions or for distribution of a hard copy of the Draft IS/MND, please contact Robert Schaaf at [Robert.Schaaf@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Robert.Schaaf@conservation.ca.gov) and cc [CalGEMSouthern@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CalGEMSouthern@conservation.ca.gov) using Attn: Permanent Sealing of Orphan Well in Orange County Project.

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Schaaf".

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Robert Schaaf  
Program Manager  
CalGEM State Abandonment Program  
Department of Conservation