



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 Wells in Kern 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 Wells in Kern County Project by the California Department of Conservation Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) State Abandonment Program involves the State of California's plugging and abandoning (permanent sealing) of 18 orphan wells, removal of tanks, aboveground pipelines, debris, and other Project-related facilities and equipment in Kern County, California. One well is not within an oil field, while the rest are in the Fruitvale (12), Mountain View (3), Edison (1), and Semitropic (1) Oil Fields. For well permanent sealing, each well would be cleaned out and then plugged with cement and inert mud to the ground surface. Then, the well casing would be cut down to approximately five to ten feet below ground level, and the site would be backfilled with soil up to ground level.

All activities would utilize existing roads and previously disturbed areas to the maximum extent feasible. Due to the locations of the well sites, the access and staging of equipment could have the potential for ground disturbance. Therefore, CalGEM is preparing this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines. A site stabilization and/or lease restoration plan is proposed to ensure that that area is returned to natural conditions.

LOCATION: The proposed project is in Kern County, California, within the Fruitvale, Mountain View, Edison, and Semitropic Oil Fields; one well is not located within an oil field. The Fruitvale Oil Field is located within the city limits of Bakersfield, while the remaining wells are within unincorporated Kern County (Sections 3, 19, 20, 27, and 28, of Townships 27S, 29S, and 30S, Ranges 22E, 27E, and 29E, Mount Diablo 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



California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jennifer Lucchesi, Director

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 18, 2025**, and ending on **October 17, 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 17, 2025**. Written comments should be sent to: California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), Attn: Permanent Sealing of Orphan Wells in Kern County Project, 715 P Street, MS 1803, Sacramento, CA 95814; or email comments to 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
- Kern County Clerk at: <http://www.kerncountyclerk.com/en/CEQA/SearchCEQA.aspx> (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 and cc CalGEMCentral@conservation.ca.gov using Attn: Permanent Sealing of Orphan Wells in Kern County Project.

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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