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Notice of Determination

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
715 P Street, MS 19-06
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: christine.roybal@conservation.ca.gov

Lead Agency: Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)
715 P Street, MS 1906
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530
(916) 445-9686

State Clearinghouse #: 2025110538

Lead Agency Project Title: Tethys Exploration Well Project – West Bay Exploration Company

Date Adopted: December 16, 2025

CalGEM Project Title: Tethys Exploration Well Project

Project Applicant: West Bay Exploration Company

Project Location: The proposed project will be in unincorporated Kern County, California, approximately 43 miles west of Bakersfield. The proposed well location will be in Section 8, Township 28 South, Range 20 East MDB&M on APN 085-120-20 (Lat: 35.503500 Long: -119.836180). The proposed project is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15072, subd. (g)(5).)

County: Kern County

Project Description: West Bay Exploration Company applied to CalGEM for a permit to drill one new exploratory well approximately 1,700 feet Southeast of the Antelope Hills oil field administrative boundary and approximately 4,100 feet East of the McDonald Anticline Oil Field administrative boundary in Kern County. The proposed project includes the drilling of the one exploratory well, the creation of a new well pad, and the installation of temporary storage facilities, located on approximately 1.45 acres of undisturbed private land, for a total disturbance of approximately 1.45 acres.

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The project activities being permitted by CalGEM are within the scope of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. CalGEM approved the permit for West Bay Exploration Company to drill the "Tethys Exploration" well located in Section 8, Township 28 South, Range 20 East MDB&M on APN 085-120-20 (Lat: 35.503500 Long: -119.836180).

This Notice of Determination (NOD) is to advise that CalGEM, as the **Lead Agency** under CEQA, approved the above project activities on December 16, 2025. Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, CalGEM prepared an environmental document for the project, and made the following determinations:

1. **Environmental Impacts** from the project will
   ☐ Have a significant effect on the environment
   ☒ Not have a significant effect on the environment
2. **Environmental Document** prepared for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA:
   ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
   ☒ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
   ☐ Negative Declaration (ND)
3. **Mitigation Measures** were
   ☒ Made a condition of approval of the project
   ☐ Not made a condition of approval of the project
4. **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan** (MMRP) was
   ☒ Adopted for this project
   ☐ Not adopted for this project
5. **Statement of Overriding Considerations** was
   ☐ Adopted for this project
   ☒ Not adopted for this project
6. **Findings** were
   ☐ Made for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15091)
   ☒ Not made for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15091)

A copy of the environmental documents prepared by CalGEM and the MMRP, Findings, and all other related documents can be made available to the public by contacting the CalGEM CEQA Program at 715 P Street, MS 1906, Sacramento, CA 95814-3530; (916) 268-2353; or Christine.roybal@conservation.ca.gov. The notice filed with the State Clearinghouse may be accessed online at: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov.

Certified: DocuSigned by: Davis Kratz 03E70408F606429... **Date:** 12/16/2025

Davis Kratz
Attorney IV
California Department of Conservation