



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A RECIRCULATED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the lead state agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Recirculated Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (Recirculated ISMND) to evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed San Ardo 2024 Wells Project, and intends to adopt the Recirculated ISMND. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15073.5, this notice is to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties of the availability of the Recirculated ISMND and solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15105.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Aera Energy, LLC applied to CalGEM for permits to drill six new cyclic steam injection wells and two new steamflood injection wells within the San Ardo Oil Field in Monterey County, California. The proposed project includes the drilling of 6 new cyclic steam injection wells and 2 new steamflood injection wells, some potential grading on existing well pads, and the installation of new pumping units and flowlines. The proposed project will be located on approximately 2.9 acres of private land and there will be no new ground disturbance as a result of project implementation.

LOCATION: The proposed project will be in Monterey County, California, approximately five miles south of the town of San Ardo, and 20 miles north of the City of Paso Robles. The project area is located within the San Ardo Oil Field. The proposed location will be in and around Section 12, Township 23 South, Range 10 East, MDB&M on APN: 423-081-018-000 (Lat: 35.939040 Long: -120.835898). 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).)

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Recirculated ISMND describes potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Public Services, 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 without mitigation.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED ISMND: The draft San Ardo 2024 Wells Project ISMND was circulated by CalGEM on January 28, 2026, for public review and comment until February 27, 2026. Following the public review period, CalGEM prepared responses to public comments pertaining to the project description, environmental analysis, and mitigation measures. In response to public comments, and consistent with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15073.5, the draft San Ardo 2024 Wells



Project ISMND has been revised to include: new information to clarify the description of the proposed project, modifications to the environmental analysis for Air Quality, Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gases, and Hydrology and Water Quality, as well as the Mandatory Findings of Significance; modifications to MM-BIO-1, MM-BIO-6, and MM-BIO-11 (previously MM-BIO-9); and to include new mitigation measures under question IV-a for Biological Resources to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant levels (MM-BIO-9 and MM-BIO-10). The responses to public comments have been included as an additional appendix to the Recirculated ISMND. All revisions made within the Recirculated ISMND are shown in underline and strike-through formats.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Recirculated ISMND is available for review for a period of not less than thirty (30) days, beginning June 3, 2026, and ending July 3, 2026, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15105. No public meetings are planned for the proposed project. Written comments should be received by July 3, 2026. Written comments may be sent by mail to:

California Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM)
Attn: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project
715 P Street, MS 19-06
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be sent via email to Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The Recirculated ISMND is now available for public review during normal business hours at CalGEM's Sacramento Office located at 715 P Street, MS 19-06, Sacramento, CA 95814. Additionally, the document is available for viewing on the following websites:

- <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>
- <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home>
- <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

For any questions or for distribution of a hard copy of the Recirculated ISMND, please contact Christine Roybal (Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov) and include "Attn: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project" in the subject line.

Davis Kratz

5/29/2026

Davis S. Kratz
Department of Conservation, Attorney IV

Date