



California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jennifer Lucchesi, Director

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 #: 2026010906

Lead Agency Project Title: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project, Aera Energy, LLC

Date Adopted: July 15, 2026

CalGEM Project Title: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project

Project Applicant: Aera Energy, LLC

Project 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).)

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.

This Notice of Determination (NOD) is to advise that CalGEM, as the **Lead Agency** under CEQA,

approved the above project activities on July 16, 2026. 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:  **Date:** 7/16/2026

Davis Kratz
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California Department of Conservation