

State of California  
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation  
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

California Environmental Quality Act  
Notice of Determination

**To:** Office of Planning & Research  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** Department of Conservation  
Geologic Energy Management Division  
715 P Street, MS 1803  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Daisy Duenas, (916) 445-9686

**Lead Agency:** Kern County Planning & Community Development Department  
2700 M Street, Suite 100 Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370  
(661) 862-8600

**State Clearinghouse #:** SCH# 2013081079

**Lead Agency Project Title:** "Amendments to Mitigation Measures included in the Final SREIR (2020/2021) for Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 19.98 Oil and Gas Activities and related actions"; "Final SREIR (2020/2021) for Revisions to Title 19, Chapter 19.98 – Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2020-A) Focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting"; and "Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance - 2015 (C), Focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting"

**CalGEM Project Title:** KRH UIC 34000169

**Permit Applicant:** Kern River Holdings II, LLC

**Project Location:** Kern River Oil Field; Section 6, Township 29 South, Range 28 East, MD B&M

**County:** Kern

**Project Description:** The project activity being permitted by the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) is within the scope of Title 19, Chapter 19.98 of Kern County Zoning Code (Oil and Gas Production), which dictates site development standards for all oil and gas exploration, extraction, operations, and production activities in unincorporated Kern County. CalGEM, as the CEQA responsible agency, issued a Project Approval Letter (PAL) for the proposed project activity, which consists of the following:

Kern River Holdings II, LLC (KRH) has applied for an expansion of UIC Project #34000169 in the southwestern area of the Kern River Oil Field, Kern County, California. The purpose of the UIC application is to expand the permitted area of the project to include three additional disposal wells within the Lucky Five, Nukern, and Ferne leases. The drilling and operation of these three new disposal wells are included as part of the proposed Project.

CalGEM, as the Responsible Agency under CEQA, conducts an environmental review limited to only those project impacts, which are required to be carried out or approved by CalGEM, or which will be subject to the exercise of powers by CalGEM (Pub. Resources Code, § 21002.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15096). This review includes, but is not limited to, (1) reviewing the Lead Agency's environmental document and (2) consulting the CEQA Guidelines Environmental Checklist (Appendix G) to consider any environmental impact that the environmental document may not cover.

CalGEM completed its review of the proposed project activity and determined that CalGEM will rely on the Lead Agency's environmental document, as it pertains to the proposed project activity.

This Notice of Determination (NOD) is to advise that CalGEM, as the **Responsible Agency** under CEQA, approved the above project activity on 12/19/2022.

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, a Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) was prepared and certified by the Lead Agency, Kern County, for the project "Amendments to Mitigation Measures included in the Final SREIR (2020/2021) for Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 19.98 Oil and Gas Activities and related actions"; "Final SREIR (2020/2021) for Revisions to Title 19, Chapter 19.98 – Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2020-A) Focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting"; and "Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance - 2015 (C), Focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting" (SCH# 2013081079). The SREIR was approved on March 8, 2021, and the related revisions to the zoning ordinance became effective on April 7, 2021. The Mitigation and Monitoring Report Program was revised and approved on August 23, 2022. During the review and approval process for this project activity, CalGEM considered the environmental impacts of the project, as shown in the SREIR prepared by the Lead Agency, and accepts the following determinations made by the Lead Agency:

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 SREIR and associated documents prepared by Kern County Planning and Community Development Department including the Response To Comments, MMRP, Statement of Overriding Considerations, Findings, and all other related documents, are available for public examination at the Planning and Community Development Department, located at: 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301; or an electronic copy of these documents may be accessed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/environmental-doc/oil-and-gas-sreir/>.

**Certified:** Daisy Duenas  
Environmental Scientist  
Geologic Energy Management Division

**Date:** 12/21/2022