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: Jan Perez

Lead Agency: City of Riverbank
5300 Claus Road, Suite 1
Riverbank CA, 95367
(209) 863-8352

State Clearinghouse #: 2011022015

Lead Agency Project Title: Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant Specific Plan

CalGEM Project Title: OG Aemetis 122022-201

Project Applicant: Aemetis Carbon Capture, Inc.

Project Location: City of Riverbank, Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, Parcel B

County: Stanislaus County

Project Description: The Aemetis Carbon Capture, Inc. (Aemetis) proposed to construct one new vertical well (Aemetis Riverbank #1) that will be a stratigraphic test well to collect data on subsurface geology. This responsible agency CEQA process is limited to an initial data collection well to provide data that will help determine whether the site is a feasible location for future carbon storage, and to plan for that storage. If the site is determined to be suitable, permitting of any future carbon storage activity will be a separate activity, principally through U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Class VI Program (wells used for geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide) and will be accompanied by necessary federal environmental review processes.

The well will consist of a 14-inch conductor casing that will be set at approximately 80 feet; 9 5/8 inch surface casing will be set at approximately 1,500 feet to protect underground sources of drinking water zones. Drilling will continue to a predetermined depth where a core will be taken. Electric logs will be run, and sidewall cores will be taken. A 5 1/2 inch casing will be set at approximately 4,900 feet. Aemetis will later apply to CalGEM to plug the well back to the base of the 5-1/2 inch casing at 4,900 feet. Well construction and drilling activities will last approximately two months.

A gravel access road and well pad were constructed between August 8 and November 23, 2022, under a permit issued by the City of Riverbank. No additional road or well pad construction is necessary.

Details on well locations are online at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx

Additional temporary activities include moving a drill rig on to the well pad, generators, trailers for the well site crew, and a closed loop mud system. The only permanent on-site facilities after drilling operations are complete will be the wellhead and the already existing well pad and gravel access road. Noise reduction during drilling will include the use of a 24-foot-high sound barrier wall to protect the single residence to the north of the site.

Nine standard 53 foot long 18 wheelers will deliver the necessary rig equipment and drill pipe/casing to the site. The equipment is designed to stand on its own. Rig setup will take two days. Four to six fluid storage tanks will be delivered and remain at the site for water and mud storage during drilling operations. An additional two roll off storage tanks will be delivered and remain at the site for tailings storage. Three RV-type trailers will remain at the site throughout the construction for on-site personnel offices.

Daily traffic to and from the site will include approximately 15 standard pickup trucks per day for personnel working shifts on the rig (10-mile route), 2-4 standard pickup trucks per day for tool and other maintenance services (30-mile route). On average, 1 mud delivery truck per day for 10 days will arrive on site (240-mile route). About sixteen trucks will be used to dispose of tailings with a 60-mile route for each truck. On average, 7 cement trucks will arrive on site for well cementing operations over two days (160-mile route) when installing the surface casing.

Water for activities at the site will be obtained from Riverbank Industrial Complex existing wells. A maximum 1 acre-foot of water (less than 200,000 gallons) will be obtained for the well site operations. This water will be moved within the property by an 8,000-gallon water truck. All tailings material generated during drilling is estimated to be 280 tons and will be sent to solids disposal at a nearby non-hazardous waste landfill.

The project site is within the Riverbank Industrial Complex. There are no habitable structures within 300 feet of the well site. The site is surrounded by agricultural land to the north and east. To the west, approximately 1,300 feet, is a residential area.

The City of Riverbank considers the construction and well drilling activities are to be light industrial activity and consistent with the current zoning and does not require a conditional use permit. The City of Riverbank issued a grading permit on July 19, 2022 to construct the access road and well pad which were constructed between August 8 and November 23, 2022, and a noise permit to allow for 24-hour drilling operations.

The project activity(s) being permitted by the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) is within the scope of Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant Specific Plan Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report. Additionally, the project activity is consistent with the concept in categorical exemption Class 6, Information Collection which consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. (Regs., tit. 14, § 15306)

CalGEM-approved a permit for Aemetis to drill the well listed below, in the City of Riverbank in Stanislaus County.

API #	Well Name	Latitude, Longitude
0409920056	Aemetis Riverbank CO2 1	37.722214, -120.917674

Details on well locations are online at: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx

CalGEM, as the Responsible Agency under CEQA, conducts an environmental review limited to 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 considering the Lead Agency's environmental document(s) and determining whether the project falls within the scope of the document and whether and how to approve the project involved.

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

This Notice of Determination (NOD) is to advise that CalGEM, as the **Responsible Agency** under CEQA, approved the above project activity(s) on 05/5/2023.

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 Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant Specific Plan Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report and associated documents prepared by the City of Riverbank including the Response to Comments, Statement of Overriding Considerations, Findings, and all other related documents, are available for public examination at the City of Riverbank, located at 5300 Claus Road, Suite 1, Riverbank CA, 95367.

Jan Perez

Certified: Jan Perez **Date:** 5/5/2023
Senior Environmental Scientist
Geologic Energy Management Division