

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:** [CEQA@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:CEQA@conservation.ca.gov)

**Lead Agency:** California Public Utilities Commission  
 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
 (415) 703-2782

**State Clearinghouse #:** 2009071057

**Lead Agency Project Title:** Gill Ranch Gas Storage Project

**CalGEM Project Title:** UGS Gill Ranch 042024-001-G

**Project Applicant:** Gill Ranch Storage, LLC

**Project Location:** Gill Ranch Gas; Section 18, Township 13S, Range 16E, B&M: MD

**County:** Madera County

**Project Description:** The approved project is a rework to install and test blow out preventers (BOP), pull tubing out of hole, running new 5-1/2" tubing and packer in hole, pressure test casing per California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) requirements for gas storage wells and running thru-tubing inspection logs. The project is in an exclusively agricultural zoned district. It is inside established Gill Ranch Gas field, and the surrounding areas include several gas storage and monitoring wells, graded pads, gas storage equipment and facilities and roadways within areas of undisturbed agricultural fields. The rework of the existing wells is contemplated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project. The rework will ensure compliance with revised regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 1726 et seq.) to enhance the safety of UGS projects.

The project activity being permitted by CalGEM is within the scope of Gill Ranch Gas Storage Project MND.

CalGEM, as the CEQA Responsible Agency, approved permit(s) for Gill Ranch Storage, LLC to rework the wells listed below, in the Gill Ranch Gas Field of Madera County

API #	Well Name	Latitude, Longitude
0403920120-00	34-18-201	36.79463577, -120.26459503
0403920119-00	11-21-206	36.79260635, -120.23794556

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 06/12/2024.

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 Gill Ranch Gas Storage Project MND and associated documents prepared by the California Public Utilities Commission, including the Response To Comments, MMRP, and all other related documents, can be made available to the public by contacting the California Public Utilities Commission, located at: 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102; or an electronic copy of these documents may be accessed online at:

<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/mha/gillranch/fismnd.htm>.

**Certified:** Chris Bacon **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Scientist  
California Geologic Energy Management Division  
CEQA Program