



California Department of Conservation Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor David Shabazian, Director 801 K Street, MS 18-05 Sacramento, CA 95814 T: (916) 445-9686

08/03/2020

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Attention: Chad Broussard 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95824 Chad.broussard@bia.gov

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 04 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

California Department of Justice Office of Native American Affairs California Attorney General's Office Attn: Merri Lopez-Keifer, Director P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 ONAA@doj.ca.gov

CEQA Project #: SCH 2020070415 Document Type: Environmental Assessment Project Lead Agency: United States Department of the Interior Project Title: Karuk Tribe Fee-to-Trust/New Medical and Dental Clinic Project

Public Resources Code (PRC) § 3208.1 establishes well reabandonment responsibility when a previously plugged and abandoned well will be impacted by planned property development or construction activities. Permitting agencies, property owners, and/or developers should be aware of, and fully understand, that significant and potentially dangerous issues may be associated with development near oil, gas, and geothermal wells.

The California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) has received and reviewed the above referenced project dated 7/22/2020. To assist permitting agencies, property owners, and developers in making wise land use decisions regarding potential development near oil, gas, or geothermal wells, CalGEM provides the following well evaluation.

The project is located in Siskiyou County and is not bounded by any known oil, gas, or geothermal field:

CalGEM's records indicate no known oil or gas or geothermal wells are located within the proposed project areas.

Our records indicate there are 0 known oil, gas or geothermal wells located within the project boundaries as identified in the application.

- Number of wells Not Abandoned to Current CalGEM Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0
• Number of wells Not Abandoned to Current CalGEM Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Not Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0



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CalGEM categorically advises against building over, or in any way impeding access to, oil, gas, or geothermal wells. Impeding access to a well could result in the need to remove any structure or obstacle that prevents or impedes access including, but not limited to, buildings, housing, fencing, landscaping, trees, pools, patios, sidewalks, roadways, and decking. Maintaining sufficient access is considered the ability for a well servicing unit and associated necessary equipment to reach a well from a public street or access way, solely over the parcel on which the well is located. A well servicing unit, and any necessary equipment, should be able to pass unimpeded along and over the route, and should be able to access the well without disturbing the integrity of surrounding infrastructure.

No well work may be performed on any oil, gas, or geothermal well without written approval from CalGEM. Well work requiring approval includes, but is not limited to, mitigating leaking gas or other fluids from abandoned wells, modifications to well casings, and/or any other re-abandonment work. CalGEM also regulates the top of a plugged and abandoned well's minimum and maximum depth below final grade. CCR §1723.5 states well casings shall be cut off at least 5 feet but no more than 10 feet below grade. If any well needs to be lowered or raised (i.e. casing cut down or casing riser added) to meet this regulation, a permit from the CalGEM is required before work can start.

As indicated in PRC § 3106, the CalGEM has statutory authority over the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal wells, and attendant facilities, to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property, and natural resources; damage to underground oil, gas, and geothermal deposits; and damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes. In addition to CalGEM's authority to order work on wells pursuant to PRC §§ 3208.1 and 3224, it has authority to issue civil and criminal penalties under PRC §§ 3236, 3236.5, and 3359 for violations within the CalGEM's jurisdictional authority. CalGEM does not regulate grading, excavations, or other land use issues.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 324-7120 or via email at: Charlene.Wardlow@conservation.ca.gov

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Charlene L Wardlow

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Charlene L Wardlow

Northern District Deputy



California Department of Conservation

Geologic Energy Management Division

