

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

**California Environmental Quality Act
Notice of Exemption**

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

From: Department of Conservation
715 P Street, MS 1803
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Jan Perez (916) 445-9686

Project Title: Placerita Caltico Facilities Remediation Contracts Placerita Oil Field

Project Applicant: Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division

Project Location: Multiple locations in the Placerita oil field in northern Los Angeles County

Project Description: The proposed Project consists of the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) awarding one service contract from a Small Business Bid and two contracts that have been executed, Bid No. 2020-017 and Agreement Number 2020-026. The work covered by the bid and contracts would take place in the Placerita oil field in northern Los Angeles County.

- The Small Business Bid is to contract for removal / remediation of 13 tank pads (Attachment, Figure 1), the removal of 3 pads (Attachment, Figure 2), and the investigation and clean out of 6 unknown possible well sites (Attachment, Figure 3).
- Bid No. 2020-017 is a contract with General Production Services to plug and abandon 56 wells, which includes cleaning out the each well and plugging with cement and inert mud and restoring the surface at each site (Attachment, Figure 4). Work performed under this contract is 90% completed as of September 23, 2022.
- Agreement Number 2020-026 is a contract with DrilTech Incorporated to plug and abandon the 1 well, 1 facility, 2 tank pads, all above-ground oilfield pipelines, remove oilfield related cement, and remove all oilfield related refuse (Attachment, Figure 4). Work performed under this contract is 65% completed as of September 23, 2022.

Per Public Resources Code, § 3250 et. seq. hazardous and idle-deserted oil and gas wells are public nuisances and it is essential, in order to protect life, health, and natural resources, that such oil and gas wells be plugged and abandoned, re-abandoned, produced, or otherwise remedied to mitigate, minimize, or eliminate their danger to life, health, and natural resources.

Exempt Status: As the Lead Agency, CalGEM has determined that the proposed project is exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to the specified exemptions marked in the section below. CalGEM further finds that the proposed project would not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment, or that any of the exceptions to the application of the exemptions apply (14 CCR § 15300.2).

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The basis for CalGEM's determination that the project is exempt from the requirements of CEQA is provided in the brief explanation below.

Class 1 – Existing Facility: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the “Class 1” (14 CCR § 15301) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the proposed project is a repair or minor alteration of existing facilities and will not involve an expansion of use of the oil field, and therefore is exempt from the need for full CEQA review.

Class 7 – Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the “Class 7” (14 CCR § 15307) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the work performed under these contracts would be the plugging and abandonment of 56 wells, restoration of 56 wells sites, the removal / remediation of tank pads, the removal of 3 pads, and the investigation and clean out of 6 unknown possible well sites.

Consistent with the purposes of Public Resources Code § 3250 et seq and documentation available for the preliminary review, the proposed project will benefit wildlife. In addition, the work under the contracts and any resulting impacts will be temporary in duration. Therefore, the project can be considered exempt from the need for full CEQA review.

Class 8 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment: The project is categorically exempt from CEQA under the “Class 8” (14 CCR § 15308) exemption per the CEQA Guidelines because the work performed under these contracts would be the plugging and abandonment of 56 wells, restoration of 56 wells sites, the removal / remediation of tank pads, the removal of 3 pads, and the investigation and clean out of 6 unknown possible well sites.

Consistent with the purposes of Public Resources Code § 3250 et seq and the documentation available for the preliminary review, the proposed project will benefit the environment. In addition, the work under the contracts and any resulting impacts will be temporary in duration. Therefore, the project can be considered exempt from the need for full CEQA review.

A copy of this NOE (as required by 14 CCR § 15062(a)) and all other related materials are available for public inspection at CalGEM's CEQA Program, located at 715 P Street, 18th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; or an electronic copy of these documents may also be accessed online at the State Clearinghouse: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov>;

Certified: *Jan Perez*

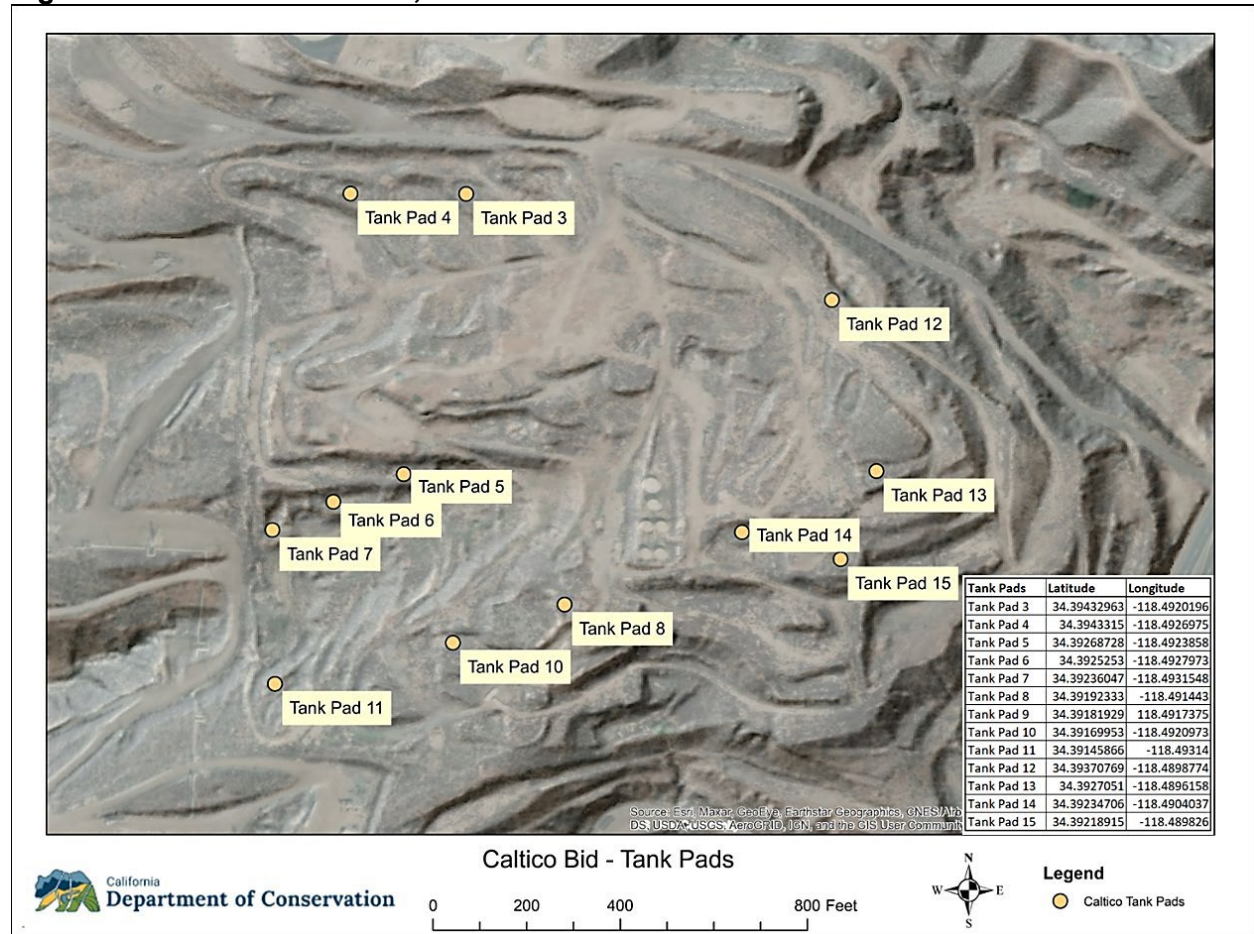
Date: November 10, 2022

Jan Perez

Geologic Energy Management Division, CEQA Program

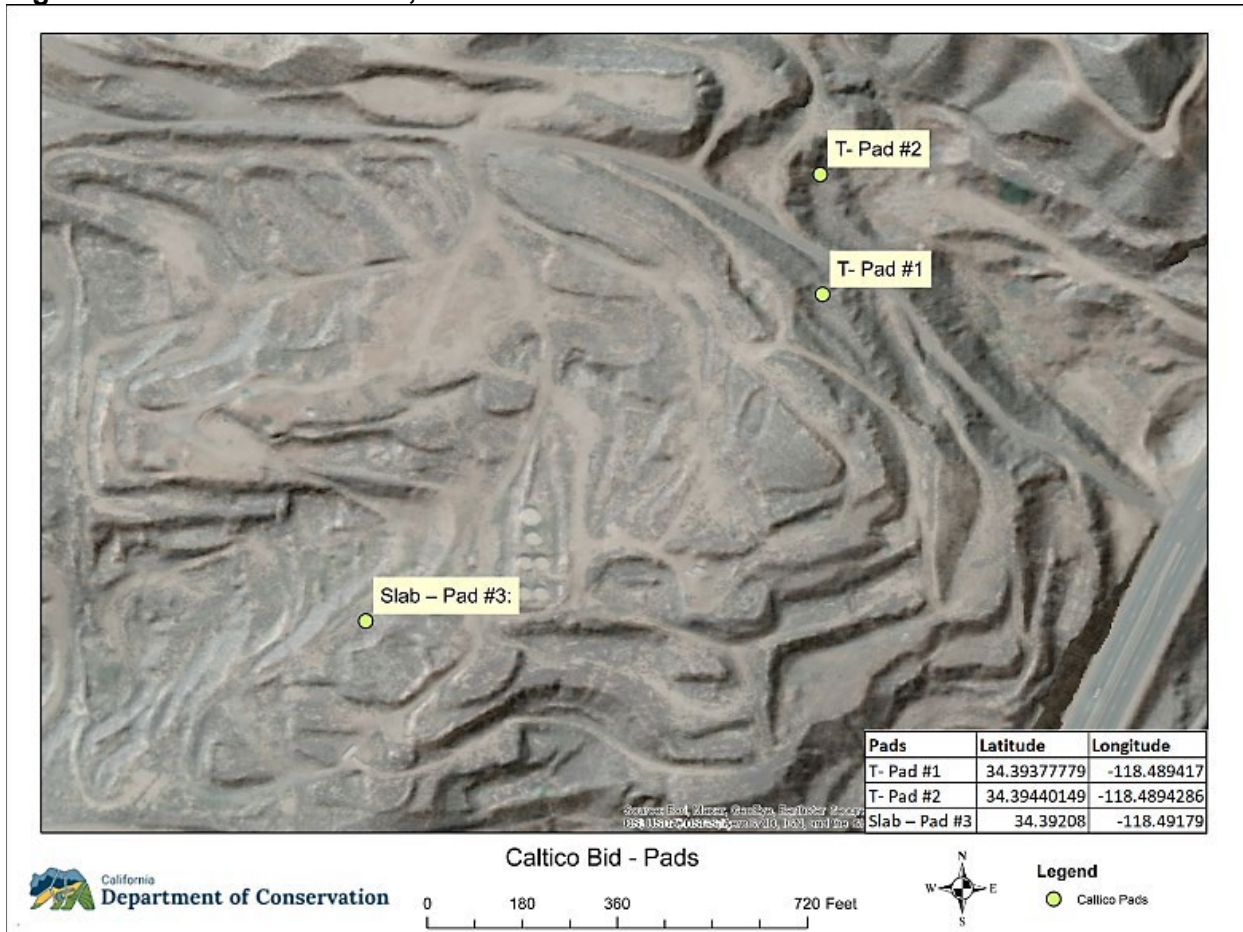
Attachment

Figure 1. Small Business Bid, Location of Tank Pad 3 – 15



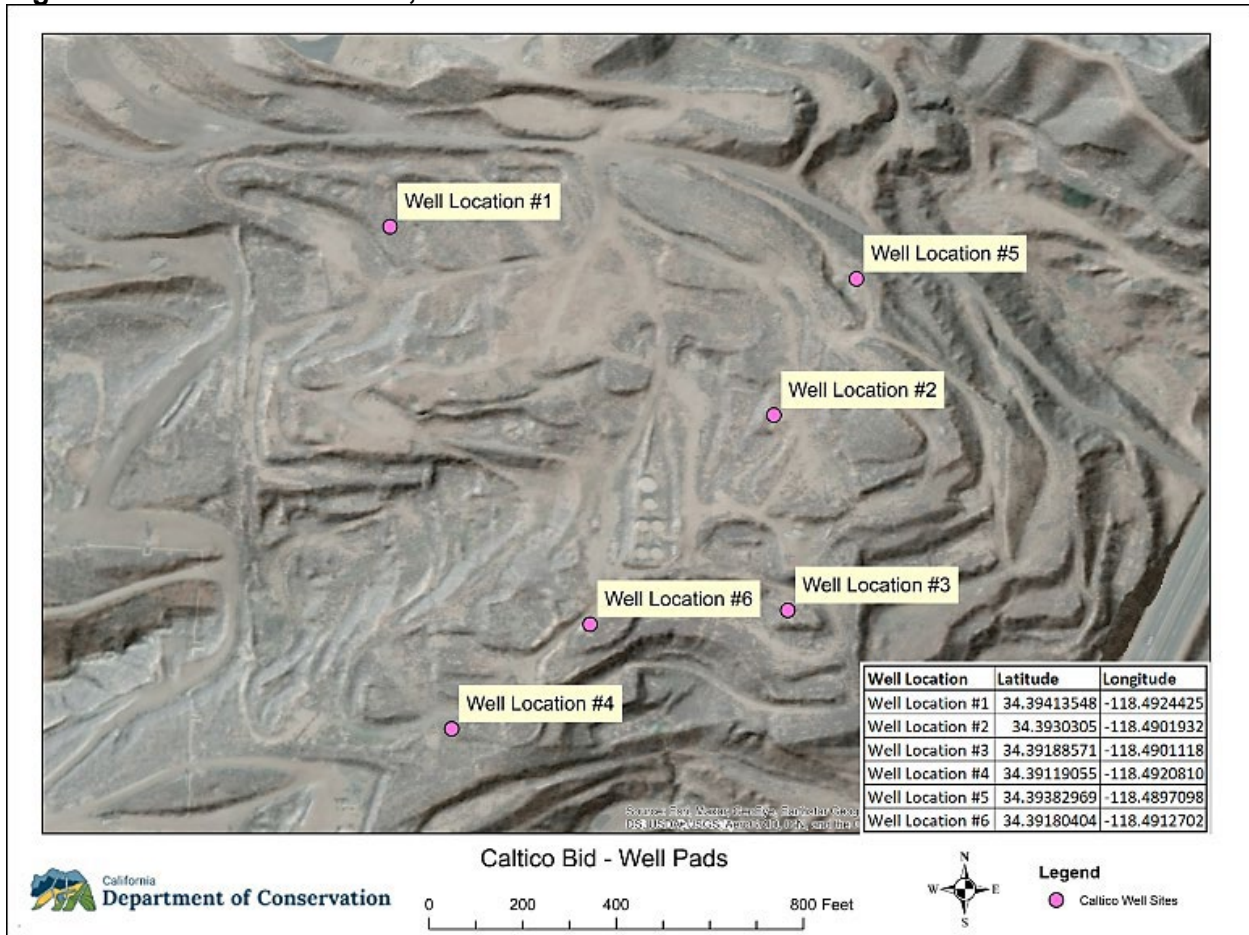
Source: Small Business Bid, Notice to Prospective Bidders, August 22, 2022

Figure 2. Small Business Bid, Location of 3 Well Pads for Removal



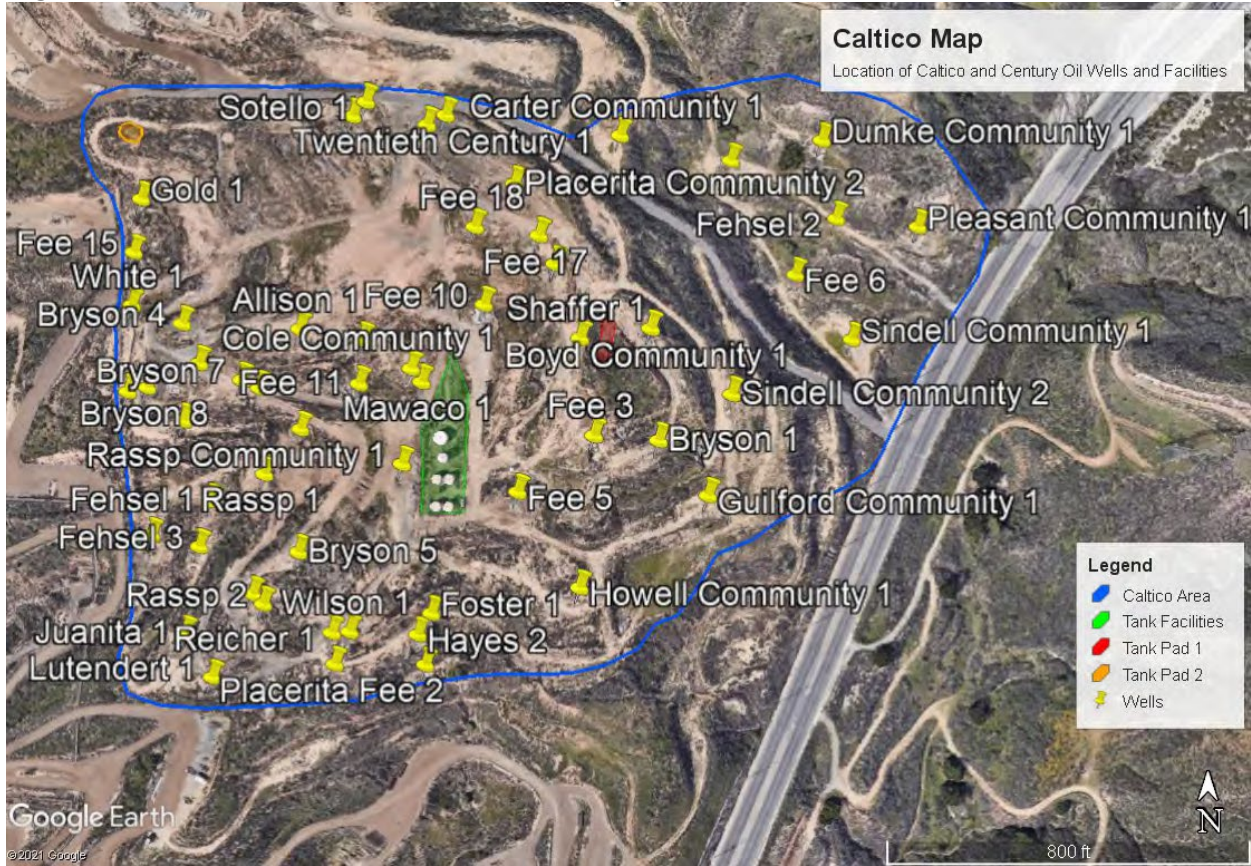
Source: Small Business Bid, Notice to Prospective Bidders, August 22, 2022

Figure 3. Small Business Bid, Location of 6 Unknown Well Sites



Source: Small Business Bid, Notice to Prospective Bidders, August 22, 2022

Figure 4. Area Map, Bid No. 2020-017 and Agreement Number 2020-026



Source: Bid No. 2020-017, March 16, 2021