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Gavin Newsom, Governor

06/04/2024

County: Sacramento - The Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Chris Wilkinson

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Construction Site Well Review (CSWR) ID: 1013035

Assessor Parcel Number(s): Multiple

Property Owner(s): The Department of Water Resources

Project Location Address: The CA legal Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay California

Project Title: EIR for Long-Term Operations of the State Water Project - SCH:2023060467

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. Local 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 6/4/2024. To assist local permitting agencies, property owners, and developers in making wise land use decisions regarding potential development near oil, gas, or geothermal wells, the Division provides the following well evaluation.

The project is located in the CA legal Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay which is within the boundaries of the multiple oil and gas fields.

CalGEM records indicate there are hundreds of known oil and gas wells located within the project boundary. Due to the size and scope of this project, individual well reviews were not performed at this stage of the Construction Site Well Review. The Division recommends reevaluation of individual projects on a well by well basis when specific site related work is to be performed in areas containing oil and gas wells. As site specific project documents are provided to the division, the wells in the project area will be reviewed and a specific Construction Site Well Review letters will be generated to indicate the well statuses and impacts to wells in the area.

As indicated in PRC § 3106, the Division 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 the Division'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 Division's jurisdictional authority. The Division does not regulate grading, excavations, or other land use issues.

If during development activities, any wells are encountered that were not part of this review, the property owner is expected to immediately notify the Division's construction site well review engineer in the Northern district office, and file for Division review an amended site plan with well casing diagrams. The District office will send a follow-up well evaluation letter to the property owner and local permitting agency.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 203-7734 or via email at Erwin. Sison@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Erwin Sison
Senior Oil & Gas Engineer