



10/16/2023

Other: US Fish and Wildlife Service - US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mark Pelz
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Construction Site Well Review (CSWR) ID: 1012898

Assessor Parcel Number(s): 073010001000, 073020003000, 073020001000, 070130004000, 070130005000, 064180004000, 064180005000, 064220001000, 064220002000, 064230001000, 064200001000, 064210002000, 064210001000, 064130006000, 064130005000, 064130008000, 064120003000, 064120005000, 064190005000, 064190003000, 064190004000, 064120001000, 064110010000, 064080008000, 064070001000, 064110004000, 064110011000, 064140017000, 064140018000, 064130011000, 064180007000, 049210007000, 049210008000, 055280002000, 049190013000, 049190014000, 049190012000, 049190015000, 055280001000, 064120004000, 064120002000, 064070003000, 064060003000, 064060002000, 064010001000, 054200001000, 054150002000, 064110009000, 064080012000, 064110002000, 064080010000, 064080011000, 064050006000, 064050002000, 064050001000, 064050003000, 064080001000, 064040004000, 064040001000, 064020009000, 064020010000, 064020005000, 064030002000, 064030004000, 064030005000, 064030001000, 063010008000, 054190001000, 054180005000, 054180004000, 054180002000, 054180001000, 054140007000, 063010003000, 063010001000, 054140005000, 054140004000, 054080003000, 054070004000, 054170001000, 054170003000, 054160001000, 049220001000, 049200008000, 049200007000, 049200002000, 049170005000, 049200013000, 049200018000, 049200017000, 049200016000, 049200015000, 049200014000, 049180005000, 049180006000, 049180002000, 049130007000, 074100036000, 074100035000, 074060026000, 074040033000, 074100034000, 074040022000, 074040023000, 074040003000, 074040020000, 074040021000, 074040018000, 074040019000, 074030015000, 065060007000, 065060008000, 065060005000

Property Owner(s): US Fish and Wildlife

Project Location Address: Los Banos California 93635

Project Title: SCH: 2023090161 Conservation Plan San Luis & Merced NWR

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 9/27/2023. 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 Merced County, within the boundaries of the following fields:

Any Field

Our records indicate there are 16 known oil or gas wells located within the project boundary as identified in the application.

- Number of wells Not Abandoned to Current Division 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 Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Not Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 6
- Number of wells Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 0
- Number of wells Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law and Not Projected to Be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded by this project: 10

The Division 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.

There are no guarantees a well abandoned in compliance with current Division requirements as prescribed by law will not start leaking in the future. It always remains a possibility that any well may start to leak oil, gas, and/or water after abandonment, no matter how thoroughly the well was plugged and abandoned. The Division acknowledges wells plugged and abandoned to the most current Division requirements as prescribed by law have a lower probability of leaking in the future, however there is no guarantees that such abandonments will not leak.

The Division advises that all wells identified on the development parcel prior to, or during, development activities be tested for liquid and gas leakage. Surveyed locations should be provided to the Division in Latitude and Longitude, NAD 83 decimal format. The Division expects any wells found leaking to be reported to it immediately.

Failure to plug and reabandon the well may result in enforcement action, including an order to perform reabandonment well work, pursuant to PRC § 3208.1, and 3224.

PRC § 3208.1 give the Division the authority to order or permit the re-abandonment of any well where it has reason to question the integrity of the previous abandonment, or if the well is not accessible or visible. Responsibility for re-abandonment costs may be affected by the choices made by the local permitting agency, property owner, and/or developer in considering the general advice set forth in this letter. The PRC continues to define the person or entity responsible for reabandonment as:

1. The property owner - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of abandonment, and in its current condition does not pose an immediate danger to life, health, and property, but requires additional work solely because the owner of the property on which the well is located proposes construction on the property that would prevent or impede access to the well for purposes of remedying a currently perceived future problem, then the owner of the property on which the well is located shall obtain all rights necessary to reabandon the well and be responsible for the reabandonment.
2. The person or entity causing construction over or near the well - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of plugging and abandonment, and the property owner, developer, or local agency permitting the construction failed either to obtain an opinion from the supervisor or district deputy as to whether the previously abandoned well is required to be reabandoned, or to follow the advice of the supervisor or district deputy not to undertake the construction, then the person or entity causing the construction over or near the well shall obtain all rights necessary to reabandon the well and be responsible for the reabandonment.
3. The party or parties responsible for disturbing the integrity of the abandonment - If the well was plugged and abandoned in conformance with Division requirements at the time of plugging and

abandonment, and after that time someone other than the operator or an affiliate of the operator disturbed the integrity of the abandonment in the course of developing the property, then the party or parties responsible for disturbing the integrity of the abandonment shall be responsible for the reabandonment.

No well work may be performed on any oil, gas, or geothermal well without written approval from the Division. 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. The Division 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 Division is required before work can start.

The Division makes the following additional recommendations to the local permitting agency, property owner, and developer:

1. To ensure that present and future property owners are aware of (a) the existence of all wells located on the property, and (b) potentially significant issues associated with any improvements near oil or gas wells, the Division recommends that information regarding the above identified well(s), and any other pertinent information obtained after the issuance of this letter, be communicated to the appropriate county recorder for inclusion in the title information of the subject real property.
2. The Division recommends that any soil containing hydrocarbons be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. Please notify the appropriate authorities if soil containing significant amounts of hydrocarbons is discovered during development.

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 and Gas Engineer - Northern District

cc: Mark Pelz - Plan Checker

cc: US Fish and Wildlife - Property Owner

Wells Not Abandoned to Current Division Requirements as Prescribed by Law & Not Projected to be Built Over or Have Future Access Impeded

The wells listed below are not abandoned to current Division requirements as prescribed by law, and based upon information provided, are not projected to be built over or have future access impeded.

API	Well Designation	Operator	Well Evaluations
0404700027	Westover 1	Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas LLC	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.5. Surface Plugging. Well was turned over to landowner for water well use in 1962.
0404720010	Noble et al 1	Conoco Inc.	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.2. Plugging for Freshwater Protection.
0404700026	Seaboard, Assoc., Union Howard 1	Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.5. Surface Plugging. Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.2. Plugging for Freshwater Protection.
0404720045	Favier 1	Rainbow Oil Co	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.2. Plugging for Freshwater Protection.
0404700073	Ambassador-Britto 1	Great Basins Petroleum Co.	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.5. Surface Plugging. Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.2. Plugging for Freshwater Protection. Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.3. Plugging at the casing shoe.

0404720005	Wiebe 1	Tri-Union Development Corporation	Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.5. Surface Plugging. Well does not meet the requirements of § 1723.2. Plugging for Freshwater Protection.
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The wells listed below are abandoned to current Division requirements as prescribed by law, and based upon information provided, are not projected to be built over or have future access impeded.

API	Well Designation	Operator	Well Evaluations
0404720070	NLF Potter 19-1	Conoco Inc.	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720066	Mary Crane Parker 1-36	Oryx Energy Company	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720051	Jenkins et al 1	Shanley-Montara Petro. Co.	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720050	Caroline Jenkins et al 1	Mariposa Petroleum Co.	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720092	San Felipe 1-18	Noble Energy, Inc.	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720075	San Felipe Ranches 1	Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas LLC	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720016	Steele 14-1	Horace Steele	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720014	Steele 16-1	Horace Steele	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720025	Steele 22-1	Horace Steele	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.
0404720077	Sample Hole 1-6	Gamma Corp.	The well is Plugged & Abandoned to Current Regulations.