



California  
**Department of  
Conservation**  
CalGEM

# West Hills (Canoga Park Oil Field)

## Community Meeting

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6:00 PM**

***Purpose and Objectives:***

To inform the West Hills community residents of the recent state expanded efforts to permanently seal oil wells and address potential environmental and public safety hazards; Inform which wells have been prioritized to be plugged and permanently sealed; and address and answer concerns and questions.

# Agenda

Wednesday, September 10, 2024



## Overview of State Well Abandonment Program

- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

## How Plugging and Sealing a Well Works

- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

## Scheduled Wells for Work in Your Area

- Neda Tafi, Local CalGEM Project Manager

## Driltek Local Work – Process and Schedule

- Lane Linthicum, Chief Operations Officer Driltek (local contractor)
  - Work hours
  - Signage
  - Mitigation: traffic, dust, noise, smell

## Open to Questions and Comments

# Overview Of State Well Abandonment Program

**Robert Schaaf,**  
State Abandonment Program Manager  
[robert.schaaf@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:robert.schaaf@conservation.ca.gov)

# State Oil and Gas Well Abandonment Program



- **Roughly 5,300 likely orphan oil and gas wells**
- New funding is available
  - \$50 MM from the State
  - \$60 MM from the US Department of Interior (DOI)
  - Up to an additional \$140 MM from the DOI

# Projects Address High-Risk Wells In Communities

**Focuses on high-risk wells—helping to ensure we address the threats they bring to California communities**

- Cat Canyon (Santa Maria) orphan wells
- Leaking wells in Bakersfield and Arvin
- Deserted wells near Oxnard
- St. James Drill Site (Allenco) in downtown LA
- West Hills (Canoga Park Oil Field) leaking wells



# How Plugging & Sealing a Well Works

# What Happens to a Well over time?

- **Wells produce less and less as the years go by**
  - Eventually, the oil production is at a level where it costs more to produce than the revenue from the oil and gas
  - This uneconomic production level will vary depending on the price of oil, the location of the well, and its operating costs
- **Problems in the well make it difficult to produce**
  - Junk in the well
  - Holes or damage to the casing

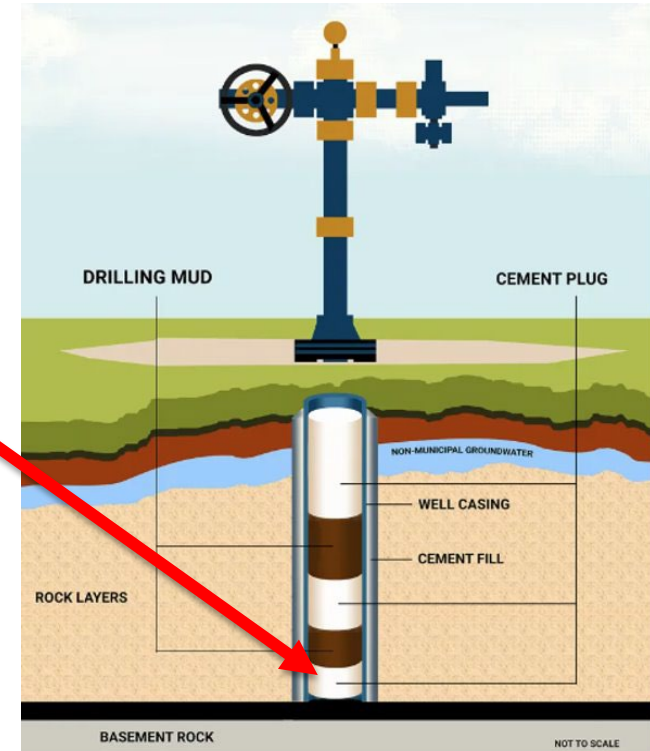






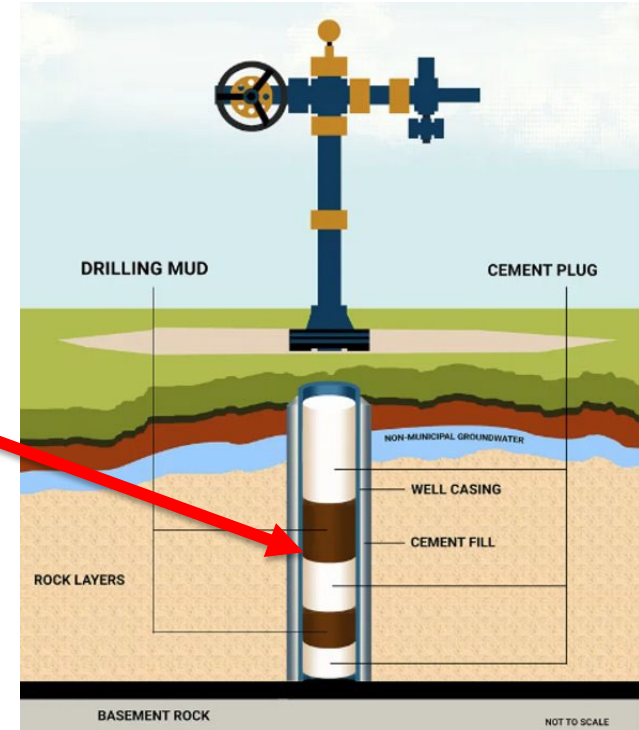
# Steps to properly abandon wells

2. Pump cement across the producing interval (perforations)
3. Cement must go at least 100 feet over the top perforation or top of liner, whichever is higher
4. Put cement 100 feet over oil interval(s) designated by field rules (many times waterflood zones)



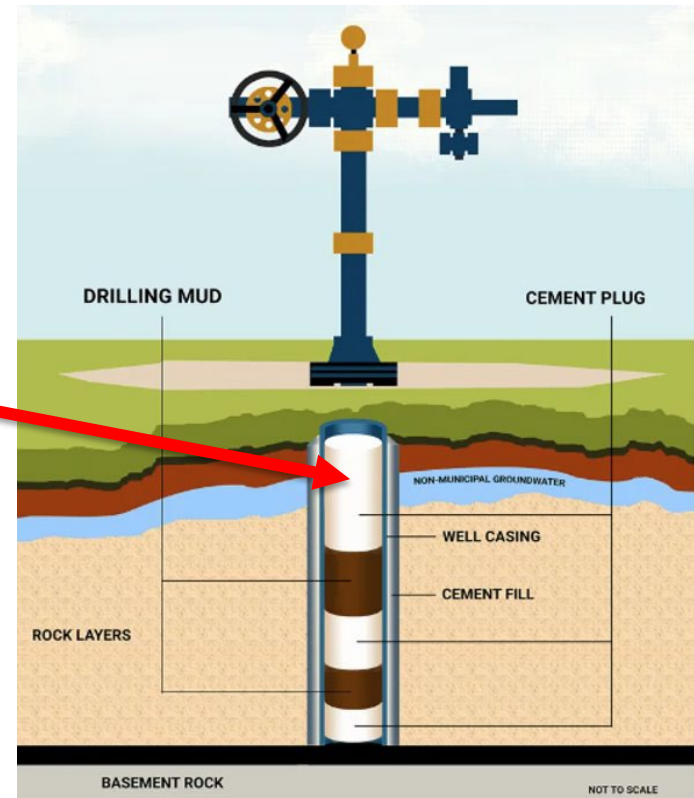
# Steps to properly abandon wells

5. Put cement across EPA freshwater interval (10,000 ppm salinity)
6. Put cement across California freshwater interval (3,000 ppm salinity)



# Steps to properly abandon wells

7. Cut off wellhead 5 to 10 feet below ground level
8. Put at least 25 linear feet of cement at top of well



# Steps to properly abandon wells

9. Cover the well
10. Remove pipelines and other equipment
11. Clean up the area





- **Workover Rig and associated equipment**



- **Cementing Equipment**



# Plugging of Oil and Gas Wells by the State

**Neda Tafi**

Local CalGEM Project Manager

[neda.tafi@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:neda.tafi@conservation.ca.gov)

# Southern District State Abandonments

30 wells and their attendant facilities across 5 fields will be plugged and decommissioned.

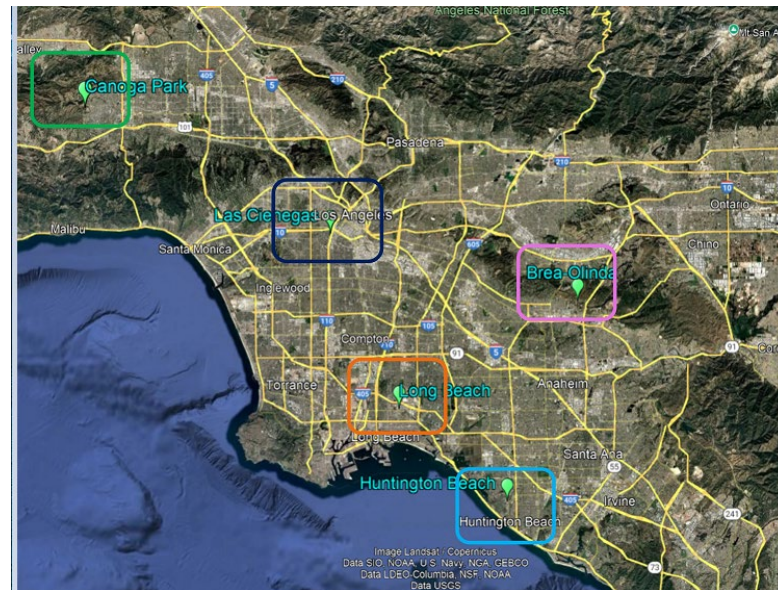
**Las Cienegas:** 20 wells

**Canoga Park:** 6 wells

**Brea-Olinda :** 1 well

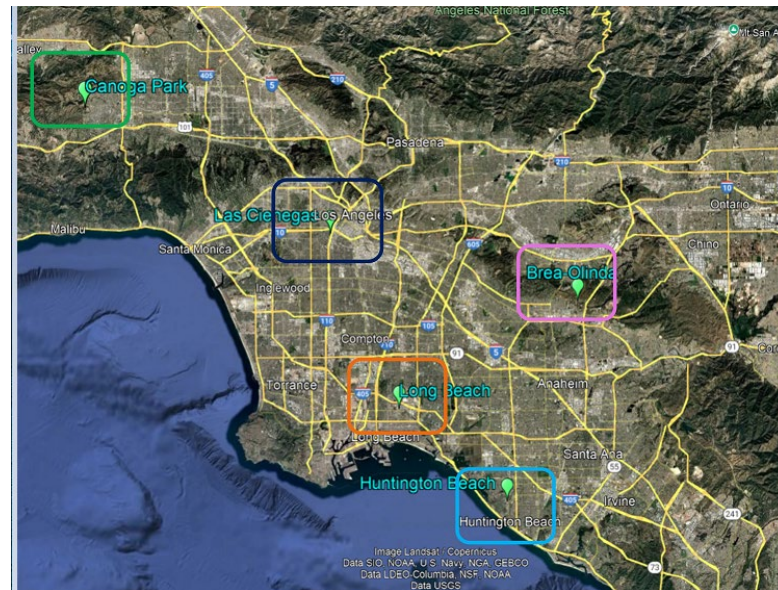
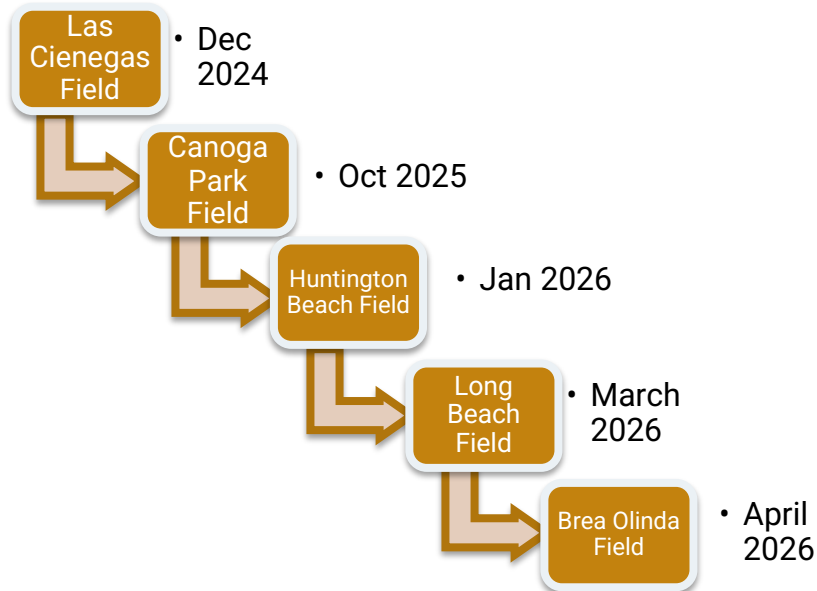
**Huntington Beach:** 2 wells

**Long Beach:** 1 well





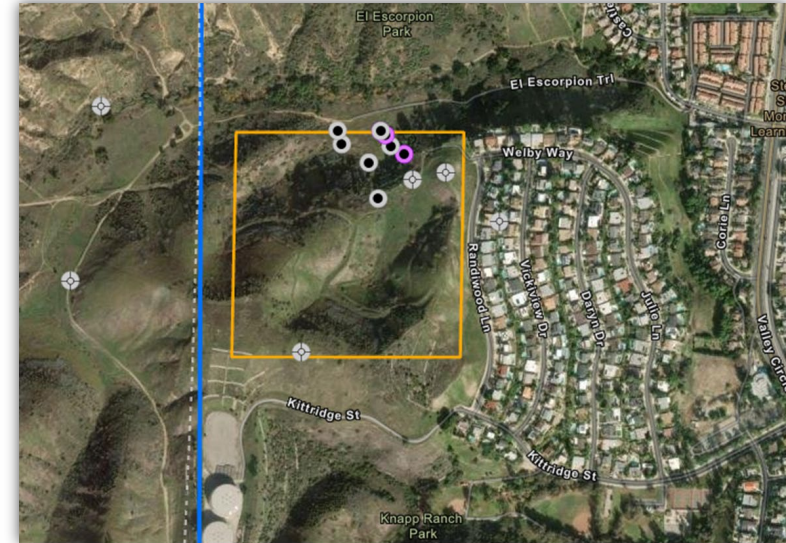
# Southern District State Abandonments



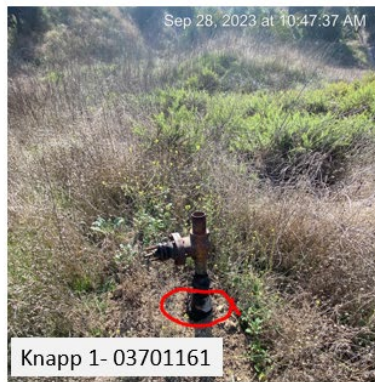


# West Hills Orphaned Wells - Background

- The wells are in private property in unincorporated LA County.
  - This location is bordered to the north by El Escorpion Canyon Park, to the west by the Los Virgenes Open Space, and to the south and east by the community of West Hills.
- 11 wells in the Canoga Park field, 6 of them are exposed at the surface. (The remainder are buried and had been previously abandoned).



# Leak Summary



CalGEM has performed annual environmental site inspections since 2018:

- All inspections noted evidence of oil leakage at wells Knapp 1 (03701161) & Knapp 3 (03700494)
- FLIR camera inspections were conducted in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024 and no gas leaks were observed from any of the wells.



Well API Number	Well Designation	Operator Name	Well Type	P&A Order Number	P&A Order Finalization Date	Date Declared Orphan	WellSTAR Status	Accessibility	Leaking?
0403701167	"Lucky Star" 1	Liu, Cheng and Lin	Oil & Gas	1164	7/16/2021	2/28/2022	Idle	Inspected - FLIR	no
0403700494	"Knapp" 3 (Frank Knapp)	Frank Knapp and Liu, Cheng and Lin	Oil & Gas	1165	11/11/2019	2/28/2022	Idle	Inspected - FLIR	yes oil-water mix
0403701161	"Knapp" 1	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	Idle	Inspected - FLIR	yes oil-water mix
0403701162	"Knapp" 1-A	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Inspected - FLIR	no
0403701163	"Knapp" 3	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Buried	n/a
0403701164	"Knapp" 4	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Buried	n/a
0403701165	"Knapp" 5	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Buried	n/a
0403701166	"Knapp" 6	Canoga Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1218	10/19/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Inspected - FLIR	no
0403701168	"Knapp" 2	W. J. McCarthy-Wally Dennis	Dry Hole	1216	10/13/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Buried	n/a
0403701160	"Knapp" 4-1	Cache Oil Co.	Oil & Gas	1215	10/13/2021	3/10/2022	P&A	Inspected - FLIR	no
0403705219	Blanks 1	Wm. C. Blanks	Dry Hole	1275	8/2/2022	--	P&A	Buried	n/a



# Work Accomplishments Plans to Commence Rig Work

- ✓ Biological and historical surveys have been conducted.
- ✓ Environmental site assessments have been completed.
- ✓ Access agreements and permissions are in place.
- ✓ The CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for review.
- ✓ Planning tasks to support the abandonment work has been developed.
- ✓ To access the site around 500 feet within El Scorpion Park, re-grading is necessary.

**The anticipated start date for this work is mid-September.**

- ✓ Plan to mobilize equipment in early October, begin rig work in mid-October, and estimate completion by mid-January 2026.

# Engagement (Local / State Government Agencies)

- June 7, 2024, held a virtual meeting with Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy regarding access to the site.
- September 9, 2024, held a virtual meeting with LA County and City representatives regarding the planned project.
- On November 26, 2024, an interagency virtual meeting was held with the resident to address concerns and clarify roles.
- **March 5, 2025, an interagency in-person site visit was held with a focus on habitat, surface water, community impact, and other concerns. (see picture)**



# Ongoing Community Outreach

- **On June 24, 2024**, Public outreach meeting with Esperanza Community at Estrella Park, Los Angeles, CA
- **On September 24, 2024**, Public Webinar meeting on the Upcoming State Abandonment Projects
- **On September 10, 2025**, Public Outreach meeting at Hillpoint Montessori School.



 California  
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## Public Meeting West Hills

### Oil Well Updates

Come learn about upcoming work at the Randiwood Lane, West Hills property. Our team will share project details, answer your questions, and hear your feedback.

September 10, 2025  
6 PM to 7:30 PM  
Hillpoint Montessori School  
6601 Valley Circle Blvd  
West Hills, CA 91307

Free refreshments & kids activities start at 5:30 PM

**What to Expect:**

- Overview of the West Hills oil wells that will be abandoned
- Timeline and construction activities (road grading, etc.)
- Safety measures and environmental considerations
- Opportunities for community input

For questions contact: Sarah Rubin  
[sarah.rubin@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:sarah.rubin@conservation.ca.gov)



# Community Health Safety Notification Plan



- Where the work will occur.
- The days and times work will happen.
- The plans to protect the community from possible hazards.
- What to do in case of emergency.
- Whom to call with questions or concerns.
- How the environment and cultural resources will be protected.
- The government agencies that are overseeing the work.
- How updates and new information will be provided.

Local Agency	Concern	Contact Number or Email
Department of Conservation / CalGEM Representative	Questions or concerns about the Project	562-637-4400 Email: <a href="mailto:CommunityConcern@conservation.ca.gov">CommunityConcern@conservation.ca.gov</a>
Driltek, Inc. - Contractor	Questions or concerns at the site	Emergency hotline 833-312-1234
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Odors, dust, or air quality concerns	1-800-288-7664 Or submit a complaint online <a href="https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints">https://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints</a>
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Report noise concerns	213-738-3220
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	Report health concerns	626-430-9821 Email: <a href="mailto:DPH-OEJCH@ph.lacounty.gov">DPH-OEJCH@ph.lacounty.gov</a>
Regional Water Quality Control Board, LA Region	Report hazardous material spills	213-576-6600 1-800-852-7550

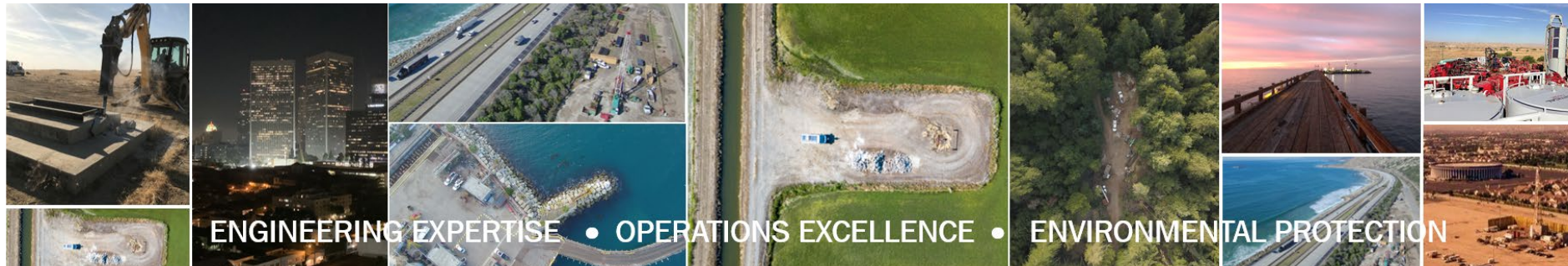
Link to the plan: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/ProjectPlug.aspx>

# LOCAL WORK – PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

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**Lane H. Linthicum**  
Chief Operating Officer  
[Lane.Linthicum@driltek.com](mailto:Lane.Linthicum@driltek.com)

CALGEM Southern District | September 10, 2025

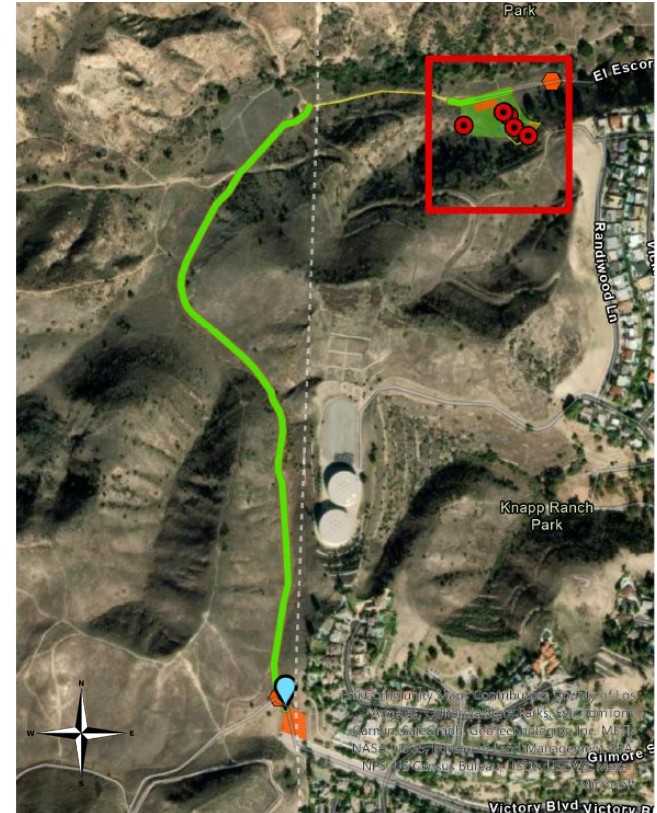






# ACCESS – VICTORY ROUTE

- Follow the Hunter Allen Trail (former dirt road) North from the Victory entrance to the intersection with the El Scorpion Trail 0.75 mi (3950')
- East on the El Scorpion Trail 750'
- Level and regrade 500' within El Scorpion Park
- Minor leveling along length
- Security





# WORK AND STAGING AREAS





# WORK PROCESS AND SCHEDULE



## Hours

- Typical equipment operating hours for this site will be **7AM to 6PM Monday through Friday**, subject to applicable Conditional Use Permits, location zoning ordinances and the daily safety/operational needs of the project.
- Personnel may be on site outside of the typical operating hours to conduct deliveries, safety meetings, perform maintenance, and other low-impact activities.
- Work hours will comply with local noise ordinances.

## Controlled Access

- Signage will be used to direct access to the field teams and limit access to the public.
- Fencing that complies with the respective governing permits will be installed immediately around the excavated areas.
- Staged equipment trafficked in and out of the site will be piloted with a flagger.
- Personnel on site at all times





# MITIGATION RELATED TO WORK PROCESS

## Dust, Vapor, and Odor Control

- Job site and access consist of graded dirt roads. Dust control will be implemented to ensure compliance with AQMD requirements
- Any surface work done will utilize fresh water on site to minimize dust
- Off gases from well abandonment operations are controlled by directing them to contained vessels or via thermal oxidation.
- Stockpiled materials are contained within covered bins or within impermeable barriers. During removal, they may be treated for vapor and odor control.
- On-site workers visually monitor and utilize real-time devices that can measure/detect vapors.
  - Personal H<sub>2</sub>S monitors
  - 4-way gas monitors for overall site safety







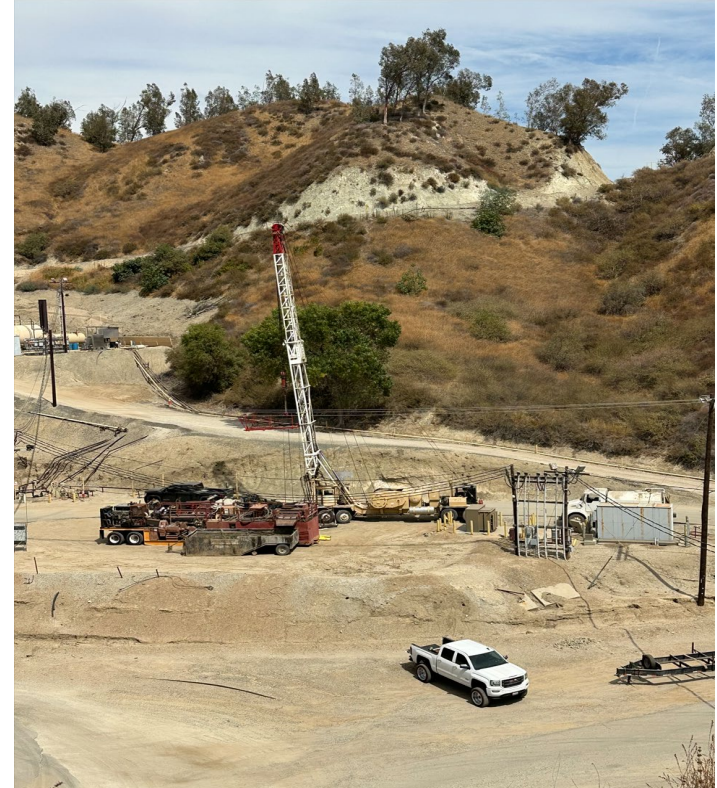
# MITIGATION RELATED TO WORK PROCESS (CONT.)

**Noise** can vary between 80 to 100 decibels within the work zone

- Noise levels will be like a vacuum or lawnmower within the work zone but will dissipate further away from the work area
- Crews typically operate with hand signals and radios

## Traffic

- Only authorized vehicles will be allowed within the work areas
- Engineering controls will minimize traffic to site
- No changes to traffic patterns
- No Travel on residential streets





# Questions?