



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the lead state agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt the draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) for the Tethys Exploration Well Project. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15072, this Notice is to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties of the availability of the draft ISMND and solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15105.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: West Bay Exploration Company applied to CalGEM for a permit to drill one new exploratory well approximately 1,700 feet southeast of the Antelope Hills Oil Field administrative boundary and approximately 4,100 feet east of the McDonald Anticline Oil Field administrative boundary in Kern County, California. The proposed project includes the drilling of the one exploratory well, the creation of a new well pad, and the installation of temporary storage facilities, located on approximately 1.45 acres of undisturbed private land, for a total disturbance of less than 1.45 acres.

LOCATION: The proposed project will be in unincorporated Kern County, California, approximately 43 miles west of Bakersfield and adjacent to the McDonald Anticline Oil Field and Antelope Hills Oil Field. The proposed well location will be in Section 8, Township 28 South, Range 20 East MDB&M on APN 085-120-20 (Lat: 35.503500 Long: -119.836180). The proposed project is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15072, subd. (g)(5).)

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The draft ISMND describes potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Public Services, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire. Mitigation measures have been included to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. All other resource areas evaluated were found to have no impact or to be less than significant without mitigation.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The draft ISMND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of not less than thirty (30) days, beginning November 12, 2025, and ending December 11, 2025, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15105. No public meetings are planned for the proposed project. Written comments should be received by December 11, 2025. Written comments may be sent by mail to:



California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jennifer Lucchesi, Director

California Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM)
Attn: Tethys Exploration Well Project
715 P Street, MS 19-06
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be sent via email to Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The draft ISMND is now available for public review during normal business hours at CalGEM's Sacramento Office located at 715 P Street, MS 19-06, Sacramento, CA 95814. Additionally, the document is available for viewing on the following websites:

- <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>
- <http://www.kerncountyclerk.com>
- <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

For any questions or for distribution of a hard copy of the draft ISMND, please contact Christine Roybal (Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov) and include "Attn: Westside Trend Exploration Well Project" in the subject line.

DocuSigned by:
Davis Kratz
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Davis S. Kratz
Department of Conservation, Attorney IV

11/10/2025

Date