



Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Well Legislative Report

[An Overview of Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells in California](#)

Reporting Period: January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

Prepared Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 3258,
subdivision (e)

October 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report includes the current status of hazardous and idle-deserted wells and facilities within the State of California, covering the reporting period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) provides this annual report to satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3258, subdivision (e) (2). Reporting for prior periods was included in the Idle Well Program Legislative Reports.

For purposes of this report, "Hazardous well" means an oil and gas well determined by the State Oil and Gas Supervisor (Supervisor) to be a potential danger to life, health, or natural resources and for which there is no operator responsible for its plugging and abandonment under PRC section 3251, subdivision (d). "Idle-deserted well" means an oil and gas well determined by the Supervisor to be deserted under PRC section 3237 and for which there is no operator responsible for its plugging and abandonment under PRC section 3251, subdivision (e).

To meet the reporting requirement, this report includes the following elements:

- Identified hazardous wells and facilities
- Identified idle-deserted wells and facilities
- Hazardous and idle-deserted wells abandoned and facilities decommissioned
- Costs for hazardous and idle-deserted well abandonments and decommissioning facilities
- Plans for hazardous/idle-deserted abandonments and facilities decommissioning

In summary, there were:

- 69 identified hazardous wells remaining as of December 31, 2024
- 7 identified hazardous facilities remaining as of December 31, 2024
- 26 hazardous wells abandoned in 2024
- 2 hazardous facilities decommissioned in 2024
- 3476 identified idle-deserted wells remaining as of December 31, 2024
- 348 identified idle-deserted facilities remaining as of December 31, 2024
- 158 idle-deserted wells abandoned in 2024
- 26 idle-deserted facilities decommissioned in 2024

Since the beginning of CalGEM's State Abandonment Program in 2022, 254



hazardous and idle-deserted wells were abandoned through December 31, 2024. Field work is currently in progress in all three CalGEM Districts to abandon additional hazardous and idle-deserted wells and decommission attendant facilities.



HAZARDOUS WELLS SUMMARY

This section outlines the required information about hazardous wells and facilities within the State of California during the period of January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. **Table 1.0 – Hazardous Wells and Attendant Facilities Count with Actual Costs** shows an overview of the necessary information. Following **Table 1.0** is a written description of the state of hazardous wells in the State. For further information refer to Appendix A.1 Hazardous Wells and Attendant Production Facilities, which provides more information on individual hazardous wells.

Table 1.0 – Hazardous Wells and Attendant Facilities Count with Actual Costs

District	Total # of Wells Remaining as of December 31, 2024	# of Wells Plugged and Abandoned in 2024	# of Facilities Remaining as of December 31, 2024	# of Facilities Decommissioned in 2024	Avg. \$/Well	Avg. \$/Facility	Total Costs
Central	41	25	4	2	\$571,263	\$862,018	\$16,004,933
Northern	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southern	28	1	3	0	\$531,000	N/A	\$531,000

Hazardous Wells and Attendant Facilities Count

As of December 31, 2024, there were 69 total hazardous wells and seven attendant facilities remaining within the State of California. All the wells and facilities were identified as hazardous due to leaking oil or gas and/or having high wellhead pressure.

In the Central District, 41 wells are in the Mountain View Field near Arvin in Kern County. In the Southern District, 20 wells are located at the AllenCo Energy Inc. (St. James) site in the city of Los Angeles, six wells are in Los Angeles County near Canoga Park, and two wells are in Orange County.

Number of Hazardous Wells Abandoned and Facilities Decommissioned

There were a total of 26 hazardous wells plugged and abandoned between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

In the Central District, 25 hazardous wells in Bakersfield were abandoned in 2024. These wells, in the Fruitvale Field, were previously operated by Griffin Resources LLC. Two facilities were also decommissioned. Abandonment work is underway



on the 41 Mountain View Field wells near Arvin along with its attendant facilities.

In the Southern District, one of the AllenCo wells was abandoned in 2024, and for one of the two Orange County wells, the landowner elected to plug and abandon the well at their own expense. The 20 remaining AllenCo wells are currently being abandoned. The attendant production facility will be decommissioned after the wells are completed. Abandonment and decommissioning of the Canoga Park and Orange County wells and facilities will follow the AllenCo project.

For further information refer to Appendix A.2 Plugged and Abandoned Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells/Facilities, which provides more information on individual plugged and abandoned wells and decommissioned attendant facilities.



IDLE-DESERTED WELLS SUMMARY

This section outlines the required information about idle-deserted wells within the State of California during the period of January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Table 2.0 – 2024 Idle-Deserted Wells and Attendant Facilities Count with Actual Costs shows an overview of the necessary information. Following **Table 2.0** is a written description of the state of idle- deserted wells in the State. For further information refer to Appendix A.3 Idle-Deserted Wells, which provides more information on individual idle-deserted wells.

Table 2.0 – 2024 Idle-Deserted Wells and Attendant Facilities Count with Actual Costs

District	Total # of Wells Remaining as of December 31, 2024	# of Wells Plugged and Abandoned in 2024	# of Facilities Remaining as of December 31, 2024	# of Facilities Decommissioned in 2024	Avg. \$/Well	Avg. \$/Facility	Total Costs
Central	703	0	195	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northern	1,144	158	150	26	\$173,612	\$95,618	\$29,916,764
Southern	1,629	0	3	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

Idle-Deserted Wells and Attendant Facilities Count

Previously, there were 5,338 wells in the 2023 list published on CalGEM's website under ["Likely Orphan and Deserted Well Inventory and Final Screening Scores- February 2023 \(PDF\)"](#). These wells and facilities were identified to be idle-deserted through various means such as failure of the operator to pay idle well fees for 3 years, failure of an operator to respond to violations or orders, the lack of a solvent operator, failure to respond or take the required action of a plugging and abandonment order issued by the Supervisor, and other similar issues. However, as of December 31, 2024, this number was refined to 3,476 idle-deserted wells in California. This reduction in idle-deserted count is due to several factors including wells being plugged and abandoned, or operators coming into compliance. A total of 348 attendant production facilities were also identified. As more wells are identified as idle-deserted, they will be added to this idle-deserted well list to be plugged and abandoned through CalGEM's State Abandonment Program.

In addition, of the 3,476 idle-deserted wells in California, 1,934 of these wells were found to be inaccessible, meaning that it is infeasible to physically access the well, or the well could not be located based on historical records. Almost all



of the Southern District wells shown in the table above are inaccessible. This leaves 1,542 accessible idle-deserted wells remaining for plugging and abandonment. Because an inaccessible well has the potential to be found, or become accessible in the future, CalGEM will continue to include these wells as part of the idle-deserted well list and will reclassify them if they become accessible in the future.

Number of Idle-Deserted Wells Abandoned and Facilities Decommissioned

There were 158 idle-deserted wells plugged and abandoned between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024. All 158 wells were in the Northern District and were part of the HVI Cat Canyon well abandonment project which was completed in December 2024. Twenty-six facilities associated with the HVI Cat Canyon project were also decommissioned in 2024.

For further information refer to Appendix A.2 Plugged and Abandoned Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells/Facilities, which provides more information on individual plugged and abandoned wells and decommissioned attendant facilities.



TIMELINE FOR FUTURE ABANDONMENT AND DECOMMISSIONING

CalGEM received State funding and Federal grants to plug and abandon wells, which is being used to implement CalGEM's State Abandonment Program. These projects are an important first step to address the issue, but there is not enough money to plug and abandon all of California's 1,542 accessible idle-deserted wells. More details on the funding received and anticipated timelines are discussed below.

There are three sources of State funds used for plugging and abandoning wells. The Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund (OGGA) is funded by operator assessment fees. Starting with the 2021/2022 fiscal year, expenditures from this fund to plug and abandon wells were capped at \$5 million per year. The Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Well Abatement Fund (HIDWAF) is funded by operator idle well fees and continuously appropriated to CalGEM to plug and abandon wells to mitigate a hazardous or potentially hazardous condition. In fiscal year 2022/2023, \$50 million from the State General Fund was appropriated to CalGEM to plug and abandon deserted wells.

In August 2022, California was awarded \$25 million in Initial Grant funding from the Federal government's orphan well program authorized in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In May 2024, CalGEM received \$35 million from the U.S. Department of Interior for the first tranche of an expected \$140 million Formula Grant. In December 2024, CalGEM applied for the \$53 million second tranche of the Formula Grant. In 2024, CalGEM also applied for the \$9 million first tranche of the U.S. Department of Interior's Matching Grant program.

Currently, CalGEM is grouping hazardous and idle-deserted wells that are to be plugged and abandoned through CalGEM's State Abandonment Program into phases. Each phase includes several hundred wells. These wells were prioritized using a risk-based tier approach using factors such as historic well leaks, the age of the well, if the well is in an environmentally sensitive area, the nearness to disadvantaged communities, the distance from urban areas, whether the well is a critical well as defined by PRC section 1720, and other factors that may make the well high risk.

CalGEM is currently working on Phase 1, the highest risk wells, with the goal of plugging and abandoning all wells in Phase 1 in the next two years. The Griffin Resources project in Bakersfield and the HVI Cat Canyon project south of Santa Maria were both completed in 2024 and the AllenCo project in the city of Los Angeles started in 2024. Preparatory work on Phase 2, the remaining high-risk



wells, started with initial site inspections and with the State CEQA review process. The goal is to start work on Phase 2 wells in 2026-2027. CalGEM anticipates completing the Phase 1 and Phase 2 well abandonments and facilities decommissioning within 5 years utilizing the State and Federal funds described above.



APPENDIX A – Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells and Facilities

Hazardous Wells and Attendant Production Facilities

A list of wells that have been identified as hazardous and their attendant production facilities. The list includes the well American Petroleum Institute (API) number, Well/Facility Designation, Operator Code, Operator Name, Field Name, and County.

A.1 Plugged and Abandoned Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Wells/Facilities

A list of hazardous and Idle-deserted wells that have been plugged and abandoned between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, by CalGEM with associated cost to P&A. The list includes the well API number, Well/Facility Designation, Operator Code, Operator Name, Field Name, and County. The list also includes facilities that were decommissioned in 2024.

A.2 Idle-Deserted Wells

A list of all idle-deserted wells which the operator has failed to pay idle well fees for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024 suggesting the wells likely have no responsible operator. Additionally, the list includes idle wells which have been determined to be deserted as demonstrated through a final plugging and abandonment order, consistent with Public Resources Code section 3237. The list includes the well API number, Well Designation, Operator Code, Operator Name, and County.



APPENDIX B – Acronyms

TERM	DESCRIPTION
API	American Petroleum Institute
CalGEM	California Geologic Energy Management Division
Districts	CalGEM Districts: Central, Northern and Southern
HIDWAF	Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Well Abatement Fund
OGGA	Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund
PRC	Public Resources Code
P&A	Plugging and Abandonment
Supervisor	California State Oil and Gas Supervisor



APPENDIX C – Contact Information

For more information about the State Oil and Gas Well Plug and Abandonments, visit the program webpage:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/State-Abandonments.aspx>.

For questions regarding the content of this report, contact the CalGEM Public Transparency Office at

CalGEMPublicTransparencyOffice@conservation.ca.gov.

More information about the entire State Abandonment Program, as well as individual project areas, can be found at

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/projectplug>.

To find a map of Idle-Deserted wells, please visit the CalGEM Deserted Well Prioritization website <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/desertedwells/>.



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