

1 Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division
2 Doug Ito
3 STATE OIL AND GAS SUPERVISOR
4 715 P Street, MS 19-06 (Legal Office)
5 Sacramento, California 95814
6 Telephone (916) 323-6733
7

8 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**
11 **GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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14 **AMENDED ORDER TO PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS, DECOMMISSION**
15 **ATTENDANT FACILITIES, AND RESTORE WELL SITES**
16 **NO. 1567A**

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18 **Operators: Southfork Ranch, LLC (S4567); SOC Resources, Inc. (S0263)**

19 **Field: West Mountain**

20 **Northern District, Ventura County**
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I. Introduction

On October 29, 2025, the State Oil and Gas Supervisor (**Supervisor**) issued Order No. 1567 to Southfork Ranch, LLC. On November 12, 2025, Southfork Ranch, LLC appealed Order No. 1567 and produced additional documents indicating there was an unreported transfer of wells and production facilities on or around November 11, 2014, to SOC Resources, Inc. Based on this additional information, the Supervisor is hereby amending Order No. 1567 to charge an additional operator with the alleged acts or omissions, and to impose on this additional operator the requirements, described herein.

The Supervisor, acting through the Geologic Energy Management Division (**CalGEM**), and under the authority of Division 3 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) (commencing with PRC section 3000) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14 (**Regulations**), may order the plugging and abandonment of a well or the decommissioning of a production facility that has been deserted, whether or not any damage is occurring, or threatened, by reason of that deserted well or production facility. (PRC, § 3237, subd. (a).) An operator's failure to submit an idle well Testing Compliance Work Plan, failure to meet the testing benchmarks of an idle well Testing Compliance Work Plan, or failure to remediate any idle well in accordance with Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (b), is conclusive evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3206.1, subds. (d) and (e).) An operator's failure to report a transfer to the Supervisor in accordance with PRC section 3201 is credible evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3237, subd. (a)(2).)

At all relevant times, Southfork Ranch, LLC and SOC Resources, Inc. (collectively, **Operator**) have each been an "operator" (as defined in PRC section 3009) of the idle wells (**Wells**) and the production facilities attendant to the Wells (**Facilities**) described in **Attachment A**, incorporated herein. CalGEM has determined, based on conclusive and credible evidence, that Operator has deserted the Wells and Facilities. As a result, Operator is responsible (as specified in PRC section 3237, subdivision (c)(1)) for the plugging and abandonment of the Wells, the decommissioning of the Facilities, and the restoration of the well site for the Wells.

1 CalGEM records show that, pursuant to Regulations sections 1772.1 and 1772.1.4,
 2 Operator was required to submit an idle well Testing Compliance Work Plan, meet the testing
 3 benchmarks outlined in the idle well Testing Compliance Work Plan, and remediate the Wells.
 4 However, Operator has failed to fulfill these requirements. Additionally, Operator was required
 5 to notify CalGEM of the "sale, assignment, transfer, conveyance, [or] exchange" of a well or
 6 production facility no later than the date the agreement became final pursuant to PRC
 7 section 3201 and failed to do so.

8 As a result of Operator's failure to comply with Regulations sections 1772.1 and 1772.1.4
 9 and PRC section 3201, the Supervisor has determined that there is conclusive and credible
 10 evidence of desertion. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206.1, 3224, 3226, and 3237,
 11 the Supervisor is ordering Operator to plug and abandon the Wells, decommission the
 12 Facilities, and restore the well site for the Wells, consistent with all applicable requirements,
 13 including PRC sections 3208, 3228, 3229, and 3230; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through
 14 1723.8, 1724 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776; and the conditions included in any permit
 15 or approval CalGEM may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229; and until that work is complete,
 16 perform remedial work and testing as necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property,
 17 and natural resources.

18 **Attachment B**, incorporated herein, contains a list of definitions and authorities that are
 19 applicable to this Order.

20 **II. There is Conclusive Evidence of Desertion of the Wells**

21 A. Conclusive Evidence of Desertion

22 PRC section 3206.1, subdivision (e), provides that failure to comply with any
 23 requirements of the regulations implementing this section (e.g., Regulations, §§ 1772.1, subds.
 24 (a)(1) and (b), 1772.1.4, subds. (a) and (b)) shall be conclusive evidence of desertion of the
 25 Wells, permitting the Supervisor to order the Wells abandoned pursuant to PRC section 3237. As
 26 shown below, Operator failed to comply with these requirements, and this failure constitutes
 27 conclusive evidence that the Wells and Facilities are deserted.

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1 B. The Wells are Idle Wells

2 The Wells have been designated as idle by CalGEM as outlined in the table below.
 3 Therefore, at all times relevant to this Order, the Wells were each an idle well as defined in PRC
 4 section 3008, subdivision (d).

5 API	6 Well Designation	7 Idle Start Date
8 0411105483	9 Converse 4	10 1/1/2009
11 0411105484	12 Converse 5	13 10/1/1998
14 0411105470	15 C. & H. 5	16 9/1/1980
17 0411105471	18 C. & H. 6	19 4/1/1997
20 0411105472	21 C. & H. 7	22 10/1/1998
23 0411105473	24 C. & H. 8	25 2/1/1998
26 0411105474	27 C. & H. 9	28 1/1/1979
0411105477	C. & H. 13	1/1/1981
0411105478	C. & H. 14	401/1998
0411105481	Converse 2	3/1/1949

23 C. Idle Well Violations Supporting Conclusive Evidence of Desertion

24 Because the Wells were each an idle well, Operator was required to submit an idle well
 25 Testing Compliance Work Plan (TCWP) and comply with the testing benchmarks of the TCWP
 26 for each of the Wells. Operator failed to submit a TCWP or comply with the testing benchmarks
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of that plan as required by Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivisions (a) and (b), and as identified in the table below.

API	Well Designation	Casing Pressure Test Due (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (a)(2))	Cleanout Tag Due (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (a)(3))
0411105471	C. & H. 6	4/1/2020	4/1/2020
0411105473	C. & H. 8	4/1/2021	4/1/2021
0411105478	C. & H. 14	4/1/2022	4/1/2022
0411105472	C. & H. 7	4/1/2022	4/1/2022
0411105481	Converse 2	4/1/2023	4/1/2023
0411105474	C. & H. 9	4/1/2023	4/1/2023
0411105470	C. & H. 5	4/1/2024	4/1/2024
0411105477	C. & H. 13	4/1/2024	4/1/2024
0411105484	Converse 5	4/1/2025	4/1/2025
0411105483	Converse 4	4/1/2025	4/1/2025

1. Failure to submit an Idle Well Testing Compliance Work Plan (Regulations, § 1772.1.4, subd. (a))

Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (a), provides that operators shall submit an TCWP by June 1, 2019. To date, CalGEM has not received a TCWP from Operator for the Wells. Operator has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (a).

2. Failure to Meet Idle Well Testing Compliance Work Plan Benchmarks Due to Failure to Casing Pressure Test and Perform Clean Out Tag (Regulations, §§ 1772.1, subds. (a)(2), (a)(3), 1772.1.4, subd. (b))

Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivisions (a) and (b), provide that operators shall comply with conducting annual testing benchmarks of wells under a TCWP. The casing pressure testing and performance of a clean out tag on each well, as required by the TCWP,

were due starting April 1, 2020, until April 1, 2025, as indicated in the table above. (Regulations, §§ 1772.1, subds. (a)(2), (a)(3), 1772.1.4, subds. (a) and (b).) To date, CalGEM has not received evidence of casing pressure testing or performance of clean out tags for any of the Wells. Therefore, Operator has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (b).

3. Failure To Remediate After Failing to Successfully Complete Idle Well Testing (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (b))

Within 12 months of failing to conduct a successful casing pressure test pursuant to Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (a)(2), Operator was required to do one of the following: (1) bring the Wells into compliance as identified by the TCWP requirements, (2) partially plug and abandon the Wells in accordance with Regulations section 1752, (3) plug and abandon the Wells in accordance with PRC section 3208, or (4) schedule the Wells for plugging and abandonment under an approved Idle Well Management Plan or an approved Testing Waiver Plan. (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (b).)

API	Well Designation	Casing Pressure Test Due (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (a)(2))	Cleanout Tag Due (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (a)(3))	Remediation Due Date (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (b))
0411105471	C. & H. 6	4/1/2020	4/1/2020	4/1/2021
0411105473	C. & H. 8	4/1/2021	4/1/2021	4/1/2022
0411105478	C. & H. 14	4/1/2022	4/1/2022	4/1/2023
0411105472	C. & H. 7	4/1/2022	4/1/2022	4/1/2023
0411105481	Converse 2	4/1/2023	4/1/2023	4/1/2024
0411105474	C. & H. 9	4/1/2023	4/1/2023	4/1/2024
0411105470	C. & H. 5	4/1/2024	4/1/2024	4/1/2025
0411105477	C. & H. 13	4/1/2024	4/1/2024	4/1/2025

1 Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (b), provides that operators shall remediate idle
 2 wells after failing to successfully perform idle well testing on them, including failing to conduct
 3 a successful casing pressure test and cleanout tag consistent with Regulations section 1772.1,
 4 subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(3). The remediation for each of the Wells was due as indicated in
 5 the table above. To date, Operator has not remediated any of the Wells. As a result, Operator
 6 has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (b).

7 In conclusion, the above idle well violations constitute conclusive evidence of
 8 desertion and permit the Supervisor to order the Wells be plugged and abandoned. Operator
 9 failed to submit a TCWP, comply with the testing benchmarks of the TCWP, and remediate the
 10 Wells. (PRC, §§ 3206.1, subd. (e), 3237, subd. (a); Regulations, §§ 1772.1, subds. (a)(2), (b), and
 11 (d), 1772.1.4, subds. (a) and (b).)

12 **III. There is Credible Evidence of Desertion of the Wells**

13 The operator was required to notify the Supervisor of the sale, assignment, transfer,
 14 conveyance, exchange, or other disposition of each well or production facility no later than
 15 the date the agreement became final. On November 11, 2014, Southfork Ranch, LLC entered
 16 an oil and gas lease agreement with SOC Resources, Inc. Operator failed to notify the
 17 Supervisor of this transfer as required by PRC section 3201. (**Attachment C**, incorporated
 18 herein.)

19 **IV. Operator's Required Actions**

20 For the reasons stated herein, CalGEM has determined that the Wells are deserted.
 21 Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206.1, 3224, 3226, and 3237, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**
 22 that Operator plug and abandon the Wells, decommission the Facilities, and restore the well
 23 site for the Wells consistent with all applicable requirements of PRC sections 3208, 3224, 3228,
 24 3229, and 3230; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1723.8, 1724 through 1724.1, 1760,
 25 1775, and 1776; and the conditions included in any permit CalGEM may issue pursuant to PRC
 26 section 3229. Until that work is complete, Operator is ordered to perform remedial work and
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1 testing on the Wells as necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural
2 resources.

3 **V. Operator's Appeal Rights**

4 Operator may appeal this Order by filing a timely written notice of appeal with the
5 Director as described in Article 6 (Appeals and Review) of Division 3 of the PRC, commencing
6 with PRC section 3350. (PRC, § 3225, subd. (d); 3236.5, subd. (c); 3237, subd. (b).) If this Order
7 is mailed to you, the Director must receive the appeal within (15) days from the date the
8 Supervisor mails the Order. To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal may be sent via U.S.
9 mail to:

10 Department of Conservation
11 Director's Office of Appeals
12 715 P Street, MS 19-06 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)
13 Sacramento, California 95814

14 Or via electronic mail to:

15 OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov

16 If Operator files a timely written notice of appeal, Operator will be informed of the
17 appeal hearing date, time, and place. Following the hearing, Operator will receive a written
18 decision that affirms, sets aside, or modifies the appealed order.

19 If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the order is affirmed
20 following an appeal, this Order will become a final order and CalGEM may contract for
21 performance of the work, pursuant to PRC section 3226, if, within 30 days of this Order,
22 Operator has not, in good faith, commenced the work ordered. Any costs incurred by
23 CalGEM to obtain compliance with this Order (which may include penalties and interest) will
24 constitute a lien against Operator's property per PRC section 3423. (PRC, § 3356.)

25 **VI. Consequences of Non-Compliance**

26 Failure to comply with Section IV (Operator's Required Actions) of this Order could
27 subject Operator to further enforcement action. PRC section 3236 makes it a misdemeanor for
28 any person who violates, fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of the
oil and gas conservation laws commencing at PRC section 3000. PRC sections 3236.2 and

1 3236.3 authorizes the Supervisor to refer for civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to
2 comply with an order or for violation of any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or
3 any regulation that implements those statutes. PRC section 3236.5 authorizes the Supervisor to
4 impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the
5 PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes, and the Supervisor may in the future
6 impose further civil penalties based on the facts and omissions underlying this Order. PRC
7 section 3237 authorizes the Supervisor to order the plugging and abandonment of a well or
8 the decommissioning of a production facility if an operator has failed to comply with an order
9 of the Supervisor within the time provided by the order or has failed to challenge the order on
10 a timely basis. PRC section 3359 makes it a misdemeanor to fail or neglect to comply with an
11 order of the Supervisor. Each day's further failure, refusal, or neglect is a separate and distinct
12 offense. (PRC, § 3359.) By issuance of this Order, the Supervisor does not waive the right to take
13 further enforcement actions. PRC sections 3236.2 and 3236.3 authorizes the Supervisor to seek
14 civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to comply with an order or for violation of any
15 provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes.

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18 DATED: 3/27/2026

Doug Ito
Doug Ito, State Oil and Gas
Supervisor