

Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

ORDER TO PLUG AND REABANDON WELL
NO. 1665

Operator: Community Oil Well (01792)

Field: N/A*

Southern District

County: San Diego

*Not located within the administrative field boundaries of an oil field

I. Introduction

The State Oil and Gas Supervisor (**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 or permit the reabandonment of any previously abandoned well if the Supervisor has reason to question the integrity of the previous abandonment, or if the well is not accessible or visible. (PRC § 3208.1, subd. (a).)

Based on CalGEM's records, Community Oil Well (Operator), is or was an "operator" (as defined in PRC, § 3009) and is responsible (as specified in PRC, § 3224), for reabandonment of the well and the restoration of the well site on abandoned well "Scott 1" (API 0407300012) (the **Well**). (**Attachment A**, incorporated herein.) Based on information, belief, and the evidence described below, the Supervisor has reason to question the integrity of the previous abandonment of the Well. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3208.1, 3224, 3226, and 3237, and as set forth below, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to reabandon the Well and restore the well site, consistent with all applicable requirements, including PRC sections 3208, 3228; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1723.8, 1724 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776.

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

II. Summary

According to CalGEM records, the Well was acquired by Community Oil Well (Operator) on or about November 17, 1919. Operator reported to CalGEM on or about November 17, 1919, that Operator was unable to obtain a complete history of the well but intended to begin deepening the Well. (**Attachment C**, incorporated herein.) However, Operator informed CalGEM that the Well was not within regulatory standards and that the Operator abandoned the well on or about December 3, 1920. (**Attachment D**, incorporated herein). This previous abandonment of the Well is not consistent with current abandonment standards.

III. Reason to Question the Integrity of the Previous Abandonment and the Well is Not Accessible or Visible

According to CalGEM's records, Operator purchased the Well in November 1919 and undertook operations to abandon the Well in December 1920. The abandonment operations conducted in 1920 have left the Well's casing visible at the surface and a lack of cement inside the casing, with scattered concrete immediately surrounding the Well site. CalGEM's limited records indicate that the Well remained non-operational since that time.

During recent inspection of the Well's surface location, nearby portions of the immediate area surrounding the Well, and subsequent record review, CalGEM staff observed the following:

- The Well's records give no indication that oil and gas zones were adequately plugged and abandoned to prevent fluid migration;
- The Well's records give no indication that the underground source of drinking water and the base of freshwater are adequately protected; and
- There are visible components of the Well scattered around the area immediately surrounding the Well. (**Attachment E**, incorporated herein.)

The observations described above, along with other CalGEM records, indicate the previous abandonment of the Well is not consistent with current abandonment standards. The previous abandonment of the Well falls short of current standards for surface plugging in several respects. (See Regulations section 1723.5.) Based on information, belief, and the facts described above - including the apparent deficiencies in the previous abandonment relative to current standards, and the location of the Well relative to public areas—the Supervisor has reason to question the integrity of the previous abandonment of the Well as an adequate safeguard against the danger the Well presents to life, health, property, and natural resources.

IV. Operator's Required Actions

For the reasons stated above, the Supervisor has determined that reabandonment and remedial work is necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3208.1, 3222, 3224, and 3226, **IT IS HEREBY**

1 **ORDERED** that Operator reabandon the Well and restore the well site consistent with all
2 applicable requirements of PRC sections 3208 and 3228; Regulations sections 1722,
3 1723 through 1723.8, 1724 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776. Operator is ordered to
4 complete this reabandonment and site restoration work **within 30 days** following the date of
5 this Order.

6 The Supervisor is further ordering posting and publishing of this Order will be conducted
7 as required by PRC section 3224, but directing that plugging and reabandonment will be
8 conducted concurrently and without delay, as authorized under PRC section 3251.5,
9 subdivision (b). Nothing in this Order shall be construed as CalGEM ordering any action
10 beyond the attempt to plug and reabandon the Well as contemplated herein.

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

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

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

20 Or via electronic mail:

21 OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov

22
23 If Operator files a timely written notice of appeal, Operator will be informed of the
24 appeal hearing date, time, and place. Following the hearing, Operator will receive a written
25 decision that affirms, sets aside, or modifies the appealed order.

26 If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the order is affirmed
27 following an appeal, this order will become a final order and CalGEM may contract for
28 performance of the work, pursuant to PRC section 3226, if, within 30 days of this order,

Operator has not, in good faith, commenced the work ordered. Any costs incurred by CalGEM to obtain compliance with this order (which may include penalties and interest) will constitute a lien against Operator's real or personal property per PRC section 3423. (PRC, § 3356.)

VI. Other Potential Actions to Enforce This Order

Failure to comply with Section IV (Operator's Required Actions) of this order could subject Operator to further enforcement action. PRC section 3236 makes it a misdemeanor for 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 section 3236.5 authorizes the Supervisor to impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes, and the Supervisor may in the future impose further civil penalties based on the facts and omissions underlying this order. PRC section 3359 makes it a misdemeanor to fail or neglect to comply with an order of the Supervisor. Each day's further failure, refusal, or neglect is a separate and distinct offense. (PRC, § 3359.)

DATED: 8/10/2026

Doug Ito

Doug Ito
State Oil and Gas Supervisor