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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**  
**GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**ORDER TO PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS, DECOMMISSION**  
**ATTENDANT FACILITIES, AND RESTORE WELL SITE**  
**NO. 1687**

**Operator: Western Energy Resources (W1853)**

**Field: N/A\***

**Northern District, Lassen County**

\*Not located within the administrative 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 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).)

At all relevant times, Western Energy Resources (**Operator**) has been the "operator" (as defined in PRC section 3009) of the long-term idle well (**Well**) and the production facilities attendant to the Well (**Facility**) described in **Attachment A**, incorporated herein. CalGEM has determined, based on conclusive evidence, that Operator has deserted the Well and Facilities. As a result, Operator is responsible (as specified in PRC section 3237, subdivision (c)(1)) for the plugging and abandonment of the Well, the decommissioning of the Facilities, and the restoration of the well site for the Well.

CalGEM records show that, pursuant to Regulations sections 1772.1 and 1772.1.4, Operator was required to submit an Idle Well Testing Compliance Work Plan, meet the testing benchmarks outlined in the Idle Well Testing Compliance Work Plan, and remediate the Well. However, Operator has failed to fulfill these requirements. CalGEM records indicate that, under applicable provisions of PRC section 3206, Operator was required to pay idle well fees for the Wells for years 2022 through 2026, and that Operator has not done so. These failures provide conclusive evidence of desertion, leading the Supervisor to determine that the Well is deserted.

Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206, 3206.1, 3224, 3226, and 3237, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to plug and abandon the Well, decommission the Facilities,

1 and restore the well site for the Well, consistent with all applicable requirements, including PRC  
2 sections 3208, 3224, 3228, 3229, and 3230; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1723.8, 1724  
3 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776; and the conditions included in any permit or approval  
4 CalGEM may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229; and until that work is complete, perform  
5 remedial work and testing as necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and  
6 natural resources.

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

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

10 PRC section 3206.1, subdivision (e), provides that failure to comply with any  
11 requirements of the regulations implementing this section (e.g., Regulations, §§ 1772.1, subd.  
12 (a)(1), 1772.1, subd. (a)(2), 1772.1, subd. (b), 1772.1.4, subd. (b)), shall be conclusive evidence  
13 of desertion of the Well, permitting the Supervisor to order the Well abandoned pursuant to  
14 PRC section 3237. Operator failed to comply with these requirements, and this failure  
15 constitutes conclusive evidence that the Well and Facility is deserted.

16 Based on CalGEM's records, at all times relevant to this Order, Operator was the  
17 "operator" of the Well, as defined in PRC section 3009. Relevant here, the Well was idle before  
18 and through April 1, 2019. Therefore, at all times relevant to this Order, the Well was an "idle  
19 well" as defined in PRC section 3008, subdivision (d).

20 A. Failure to Pay Idle Well Fees (PRC, § 3206, subd. (c))

21 As the operator of the Well, following the process for idle well management set forth in  
22 PRC section 3206, subdivision (a), Operator was required to either pay annual idle well fees or  
23 file a plan with the Supervisor to provide for the management and elimination of all idle wells.  
24 (PRC, § 3206, subd. (a)(1) and (2).) Operator did not submit an Idle Well Management Plan in  
25 lieu of paying idle well fees. Operator was therefore required to pay an idle well fee for each  
26 of its wells that were idle in 2022 by May 1, 2023, as provided in the December 2, 2023  
27 Collection Notice; 2023 by May 1, 2024, as provided in the 2024 Delinquency Notice; 2024 by  
28 May 1, 2025, as provided in the 2025 Delinquency Notice; and 2025 by May 1, 2026, as

provided in the 2026 Delinquency Notice. (PRC, § 3206, subd. (a).) (**Attachments C, D, E and F**, incorporated herein.) As of the date of this order, Operator has not paid its idle well fees for its Well that was idle in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Operator's failure to pay the required idle well fees for the Well is conclusive evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3206, subd. (c).)

B. 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 were required to submit an Idle Well Testing Compliance Work Plan (TCWP) by June 1, 2019, for all wells that were idle as of April 1, 2019. Operator was required to submit a TCWP and comply with the testing benchmarks of the TCWP for the Well as required by Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (b). Operator failed to submit a TCWP or comply with the testing benchmarks of that plan.

To date, CalGEM has not received a TCWP from Operator for the Well. Operator has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (a). (**Attachment G**, incorporated herein.)

C. Failure to Conduct Casing Pressure Testing and Perform Clean Out Tag (Regulations, § 1772.1.4, subd. (b))

Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (b), provides that operators are required to conduct 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 by April 1, 2020. (Regulations, § 1772.1.4, subd. (b).) To date, CalGEM has not received evidence of casing pressure testing or performance of clean out tags for the Well. Therefore, Operator has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1.4, subdivision (b).

(**Attachment H**, incorporated herein.)

D. 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) and a clean out tag pursuant to Regulations

section 1772.1, subdivision (a)(3), Operator was required to do one of the following: (1) bring the Well into compliance, (2) partially plug and abandon the Well in accordance with Regulations section 1752, (3) plug and abandon the Well in accordance with PRC section 3208, or (4) schedule the Well for plugging and abandonment under an approved Idle Well Management Plan or an approved Testing Waiver Plan. (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (b).)

Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (b), provides that operators shall remediate idle wells after failing to successfully perform idle well testing on them, including failing to conduct a successful casing pressure test and cleanout tag consistent with Regulations section 1772.1, subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(3). The remediation for the Well was due as indicated in the table:

| API        | Well Designation | Casing Pressure Test Due | Clean Out Tag Due | Remediation Due Date (Regulations, § 1772.1, subd. (b)) |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 0403520010 | Western 1        | 4/1/2020                 | 4/1/2020          | 4/1/2021                                                |

To date, Operator has not remediated the Well. (**Attachment I**, incorporated herein.) As a result, Operator has failed to comply with the requirements of Regulations section 1772.1, subdivision (b).

### III. Operator's Required Actions

For the reasons stated herein, CalGEM has determined that the Well is deserted. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206, 3206.1, 3224, 3226, and 3237, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Operator plug and abandon the Well, decommission the Facilities, and restore the well site for the Well consistent with all applicable requirements of PRC sections 3208, 3224, 3228, 3229, and 3230; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1723.8, 1724, 1724.1, 1775, and 1776; and the conditions included in any permit CalGEM may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229. Until that work is complete, Operator is ordered to perform remedial work and testing on the Well as necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources.

### IV. Operator's Appeal Rights

Operator may appeal this Order by filing a timely written notice of appeal with the Director as described in Article 6 (Appeals and Review) of Division 3 of the PRC, commencing

with PRC section 3350. (PRC, §§ 3225, subd. (d); 3236.5, subd. (c); 3237, subd. (b).) If this Order is mailed to you, the Director must receive the appeal within (15) days from the date the Supervisor mails the Order. To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal may be sent via U.S. mail to:

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

Or via electronic mail:

[OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov)

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

If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the order is affirmed following an appeal, this Order will become a final order and CalGEM may contract for 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 property per PRC section 3423. (PRC, § 3356.)

#### **V. Consequences of Non-Compliance**

Failure to comply with Section III (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 sections 3236.2 and 3236.3 authorizes the Supervisor to refer for civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to comply with an order or for violation of any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes. 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 3237 authorizes the Supervisor to order the plugging and abandonment of a well or the decommissioning of a production facility if an operator has failed to comply with an order of the Supervisor within the time provided by the order or has failed to challenge the order on a timely basis. 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.) By issuance of this Order, the Supervisor does not waive the right to take further enforcement actions.

DATED: 10/9/2026

*Cari Anderson*

Cari Anderson  
CalGEM Enforcement Chief