



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

News Release

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DOC ISSUES ORDER SEEKING DATA ON INGLEWOOD OIL FIELD OPERATIONS

SACRAMENTO – State regulators today issued an order requiring the Freeport-McMoRan Oil and Gas Company to provide certain data related to operations in the Inglewood Oil Field. The information will help the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources determine whether subsidence (the gradual sinking of land) in the area is related to oil production.

“The geology of the Inglewood field is extremely complex due to faulting,” said State Oil & Gas Supervisor Dr. Steven Bohlen, who heads the oil and gas division of the Department of Conservation. “It is clear that subsidence is occurring. We need additional data before we can say anything about a possible connection to oilfield operations.”

A consultant’s study done at the request of the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District determined that from 2010 to 2015, there was a measured cumulative subsidence of more than 2.5 inches. The Community Standards District was created in 2008 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to establish additional regulations for oil and gas production activities in the unincorporated portion of the Inglewood Oil Field located in the Baldwin Hills area.

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources order states: “*The Supervisor is concerned about, and requires more data to assess, the potential damage to life, health, property or natural resources from cumulative subsidence of this magnitude.*” Under the Community Standards District’s terms, the Division conducts analyses to determine if ground movement such as subsidence or uplift can be attributed to oilfield operations, while Los Angeles County’s Department of Public Works draws conclusions about the sources of any damage and whether the damage is attributable to ground movement.

Phoenix-based Freeport-McMoRan operates 641 producing wells in the Inglewood field. The associated production for 2014 was 2,663,691 barrels of oil.

Among other data, the order requires Freeport-McMoRan to provide:

The Department of Conservation’s mission is to balance today’s needs with tomorrow’s challenges and foster intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California’s energy, land, and mineral resources.

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◆ Information about all well casing damage not solely related to corrosion, in certain oil reservoirs, for the last 30 years.

◆ Maps, cross sections and block diagrams showing all known faults in those reservoirs with a plot of the casing damage locations on those illustrations.

◆ Pressure measurements taken within the last six months for certain wells.

◆ A map of wellheads that the operator believe have risen relative to the surrounding land surface.

◆ Information about rock compaction in the identified reservoirs.

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources oversees oil and gas production in California, emphasizing the wise development of oil, natural gas, and geothermal resources through sound engineering practices that protect the environment, prevent pollution, and ensure public safety. California is increasingly reliant on renewable energy resources, but fossil fuels remain critical to our economy. Roughly one-third of the oil used in California is produced from California oil and gas reservoirs, most in the San Joaquin Valley.

To ensure that oil is produced in a way that protects the environment and public health, the California Department of Conservation earlier this year released a Renewal Plan to overhaul its regulatory program. The Renewal Plan is available [here](#).

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