



California
**Department of
Conservation**
CalGEM

Los Angeles Community Meeting

Monday, June 24, 2024 6:00 PM

Purpose and Objectives:

To inform the L.A. County community residents of the recent state expanded efforts to permanently seal potential environmental and public safety hazards in Southern California; Inform which wells have been prioritized to be plugged and permanently sealed; To address and answer concerns and questions.

Agenda

Monday, June 24, 2024



Overview of State Well Abandonment Program

- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

Wells Scheduled for Work Locally

- Neda Tafi, Project Manager

Overview of How Plugging and Sealing an Oil Well Works

- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

Driltek Local Work – Process and Schedule

- Lane Linthicum, Chief Operations Officer Driltek (local contractor)
 - Work hours
 - Signage
 - Mitigation: traffic, dust, noise, smell
 - Questions

Open to Questions and Comments



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CalGEM

OVERVIEW OF STATE WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

Robert Schaaf,
State Abandonment Program Manager
robert.schaaf@conservation.ca.gov

STATE WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

**Approximately 5,300 likely orphan oil and
gas wells across California**

New funds available to abandon wells

- State Funds
- Federal Funds



PHASE 1 STATE ABANDONMENT PROJECTS

Approximately ~\$80M
of State abandonment
projects to tackle **378**
wells

Roughly \$31M (or 40%
of the total) addressing
126 wells located in
Disadvantaged
Communities (DACs)

PROJECTS ADDRESS HIGH RISK WELLS IN COMMUNITIES

- First phase will focus on high-risk wells—helping to ensure we address the threats they bring to California communities
 - Orphan wells found to be leaking in Los Angeles
 - Orphan wells declared hazardous, and other wells located near people with history of leaks



California
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California Geologic Energy
Management

State Abandonment Program – Phase 1 Wells and Facilities in the Southern District

Neda Tafi - Project Manager
neda.tafi@conservation.ca.gov

Southern District State Abandonments

Las Cienegas: 20 wells

Canoga Park: 5 wells

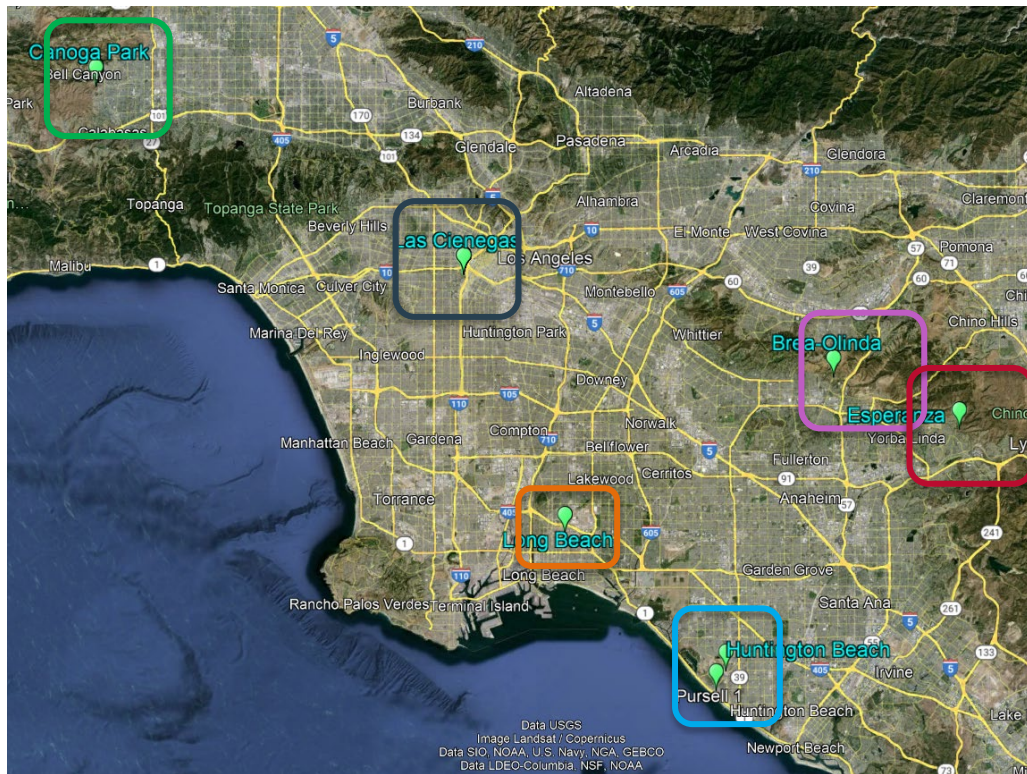
Esperanza: 1 well

Brea-Olinda : 1 well

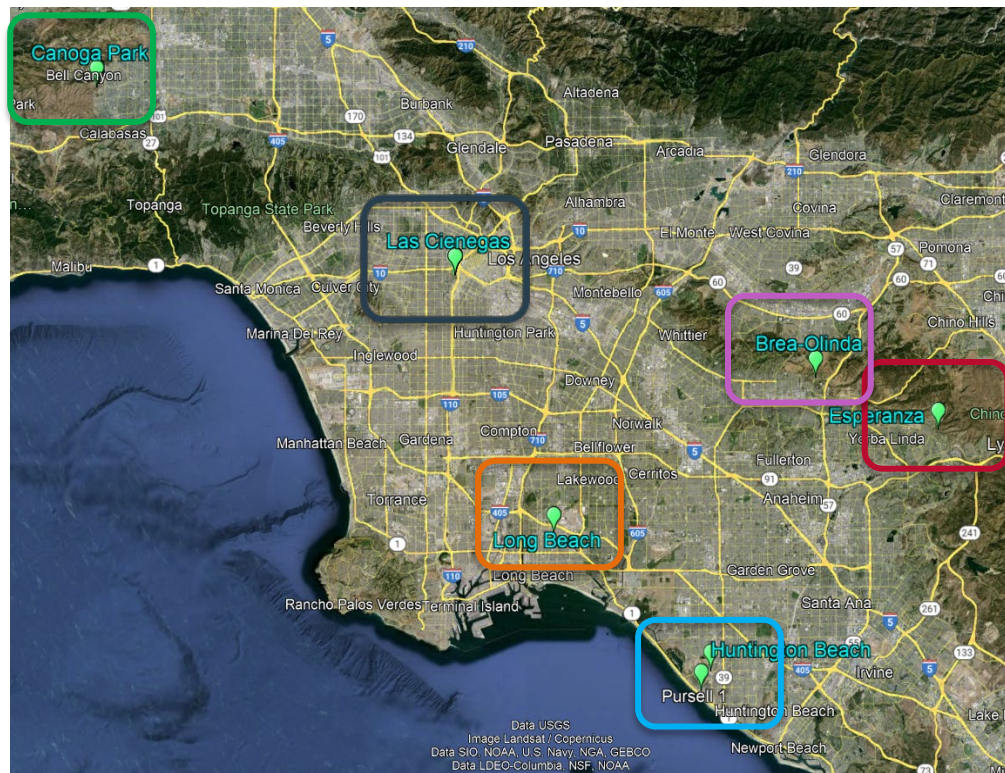
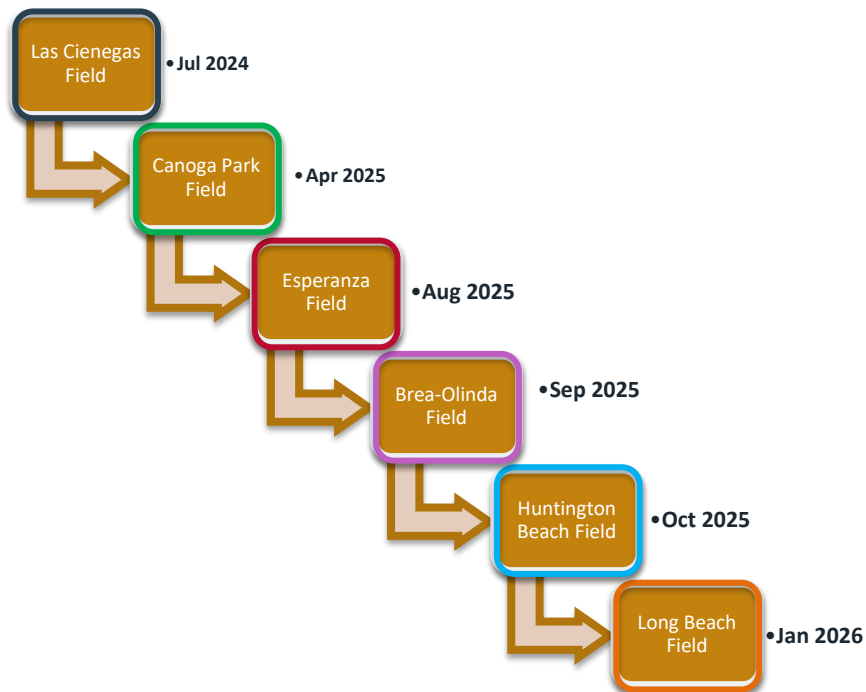
Huntington Beach: 2 wells

Long Beach: 1 well

Total 30 wells



Southern District State Abandonments- Phase 1



Las Cienegas Field –AllenCo Energy, Inc., 20 wells and onsite tank facility in Los Angeles

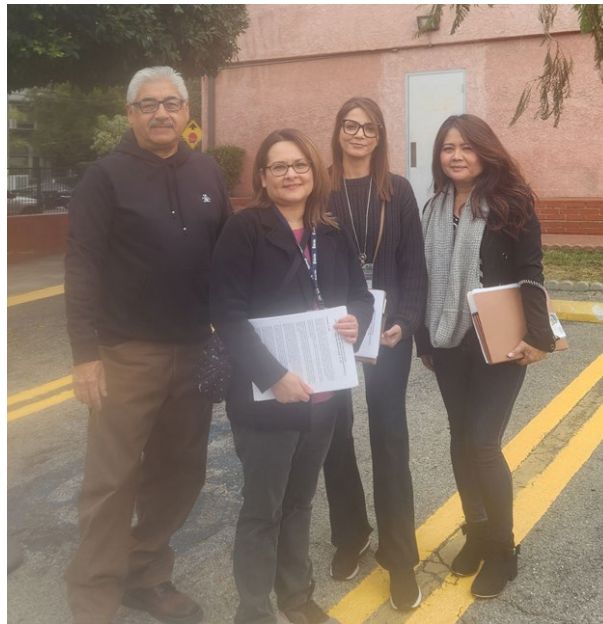
Background:

- Located between Saint James Park, residential properties, and St. Vincent Elementary School and is located within Disadvantaged Community.
- Government agencies have taken numerous enforcement and legal actions in response to public health and safety concern.
- The local community has expressed serious concerns and has called for the clean-up of this site.
- In 2019, CalGEM issued an order to AllenCo to depressurize the wells; AllenCo did not comply.
- In 2020, CalGEM ordered AllenCo to permanently plug and abandon the wells and decommission the facilities. While that order was appealed, it is now final.



Distributed Community Awareness Flyers on December 18, 2023

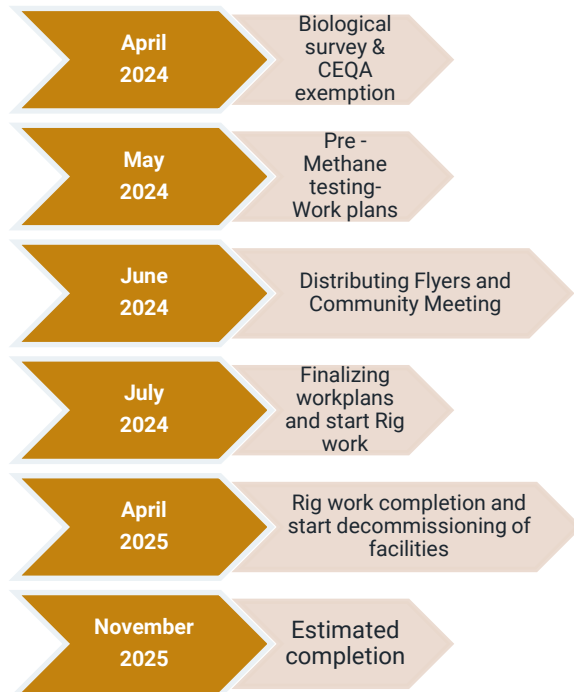
Esperanza Community –CalGEM- LA County Department of Health



Distributed Community Awareness Flyers on January 16, 2024



AllenCo (St. James) plan and status update



Well Abandonment - Well 14, March 2024





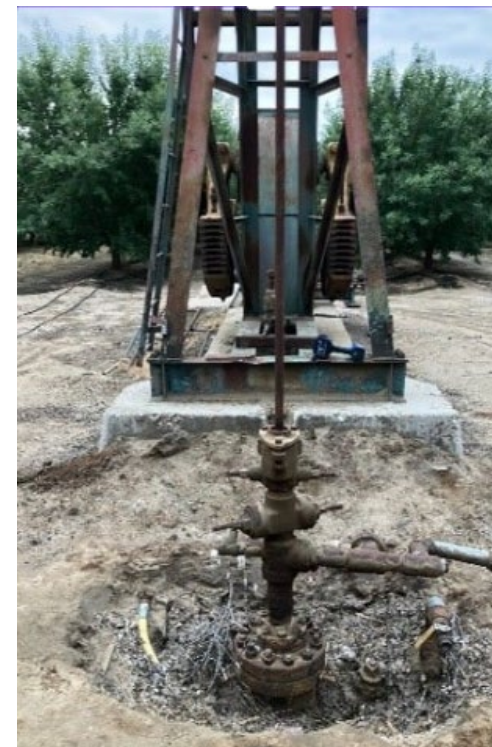
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WELL ABANDONMENT PROCESS

**Robert Schaaf,
State Abandonment Program Manager**

WHAT HAPPENS TO A WELL OVER TIME?

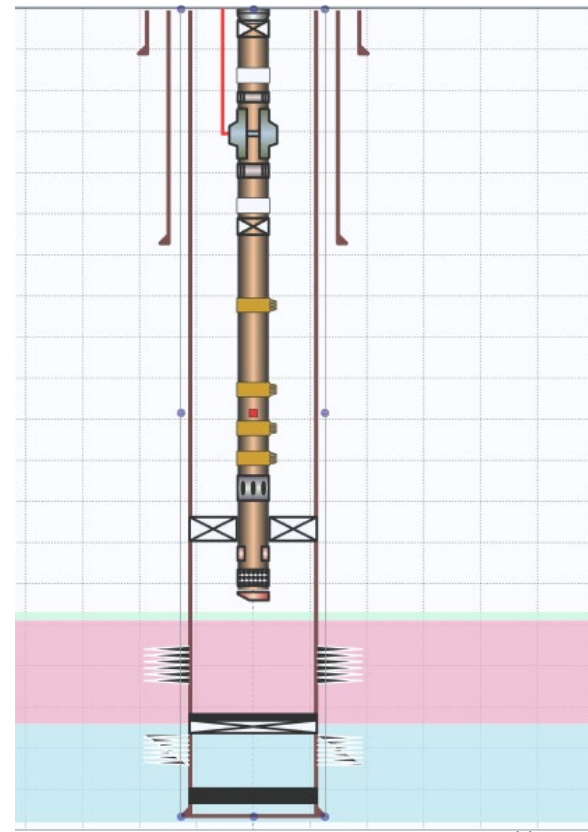
- **Wells produce less and less as the years go by**
 - Eventually the oil production is at a level where it costs more to produce than the revenue from the oil and gas
 - This uneconomic production level will vary depending on the price of oil, the location of the well, and its operating costs
- **Problems in the well make it difficult to produce**
 - Junk in the well
 - Holes or damage to the casing
- **Responsible Operators will then properly abandon these wells**



STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

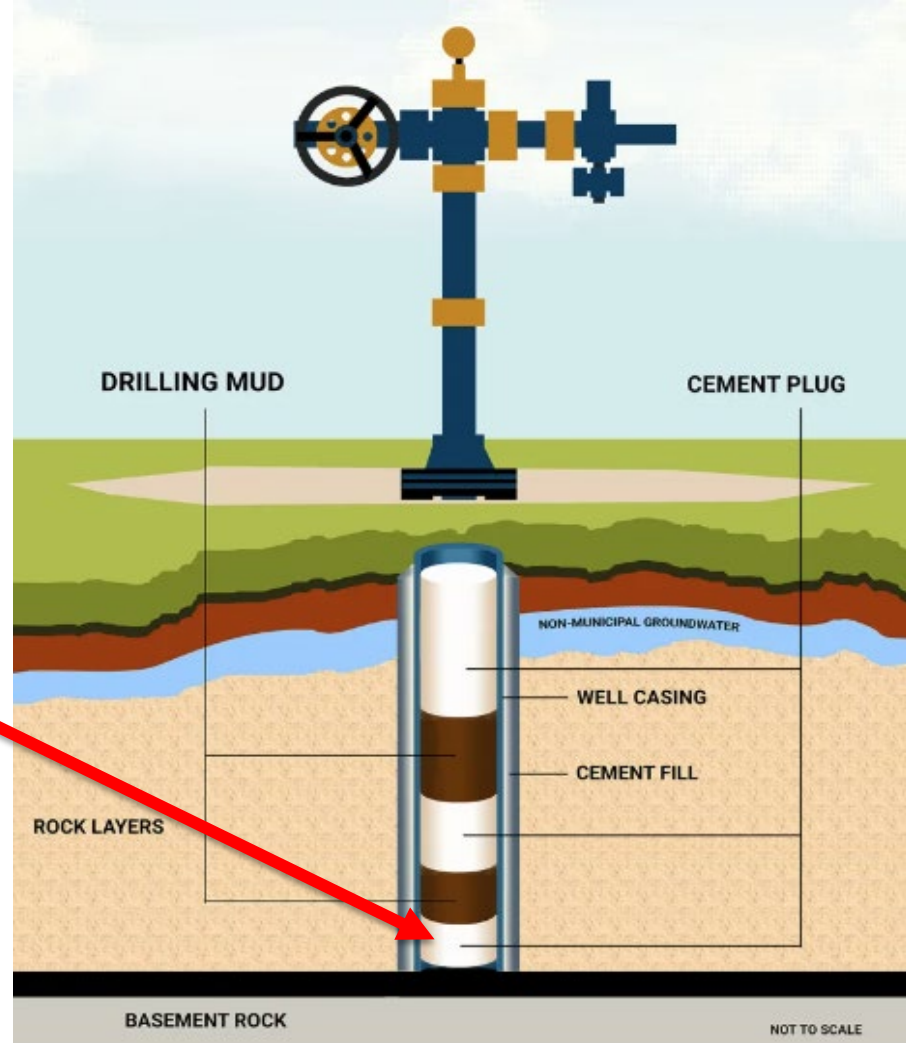
1. Clean-out well to bottom

- Get tubing, rods, pump, and any other junk out of well
- Clean out any sand or other debris to below production zone



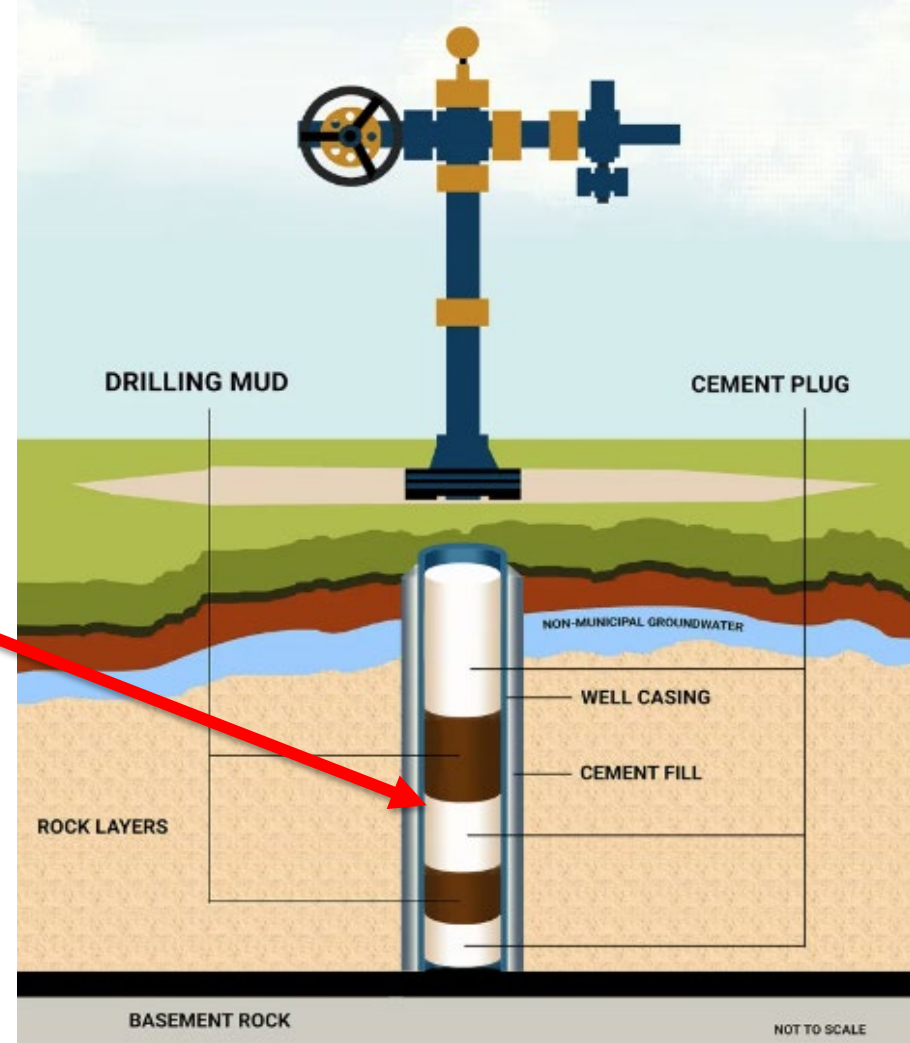
STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

2. **Pump cement** across producing interval (perforations)
3. Cement must go at least 100 feet over top perforation or top of liner whichever is higher
4. Put cement 100 feet over oil interval(s) designated by field rules (many times waterflood zones)



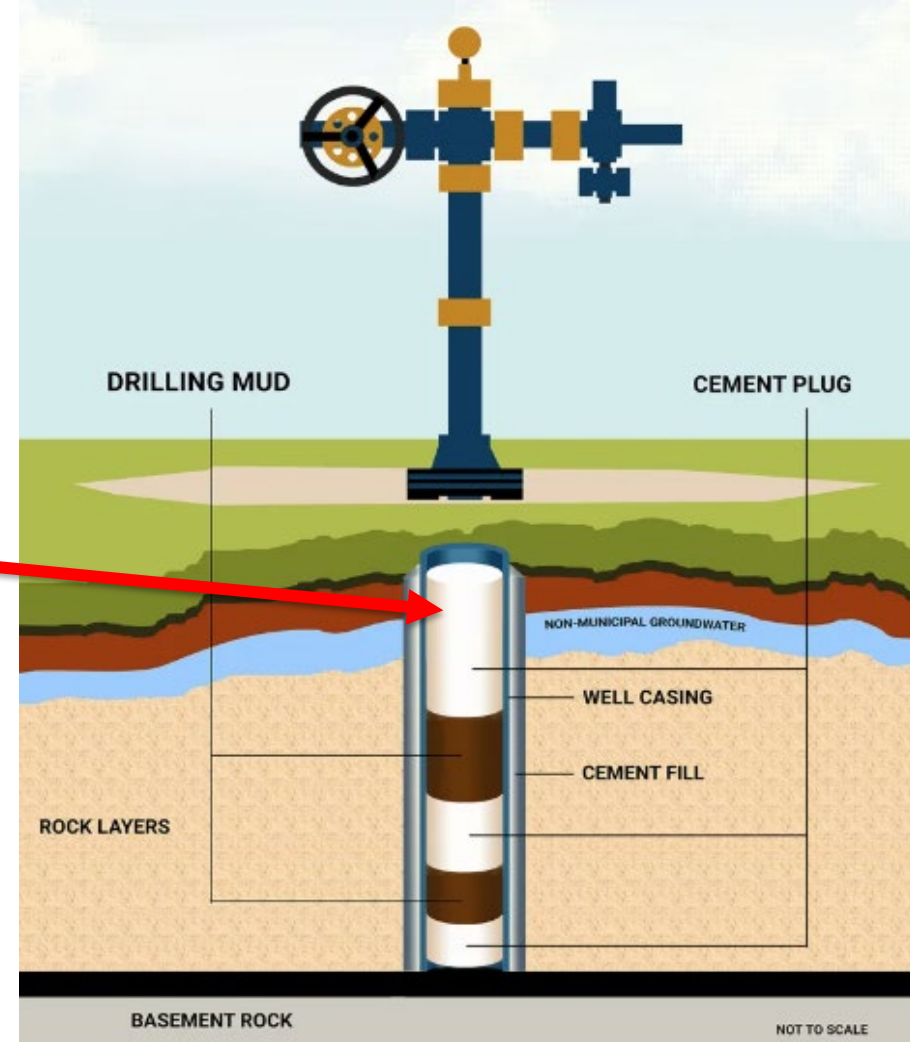
STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

5. Put cement across freshwater interface



STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

6. Cut off wellhead 5 to 10 feet below ground level
7. Put at least 25 linear feet of cement at top of well



STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

8. Cover the well
9. Remove pipelines and other equipment
10. Clean-up the area

Our Commitment to the Site

- All 21 wells abandoned to current regulatory standards
- Final post-abandonment methane testing regularly for the following three months to confirm there are no methane emissions from the wells
- All structures removed – tanks, building, pipelines and leave area as a flat concrete plot of land



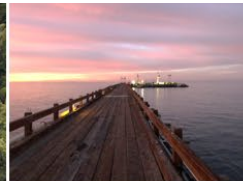
LOCAL WORK – PROCESS AND SCHEDULE/ TRABAJO LOCAL – PROCESO Y CALENDARIO

CALGEM Southern District | June 24, 2024

EXPERIENCIA EN INGENIERÍA

EXCELENCIA EN OPERACIONES

PROTECCIÓN DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE



ENGINEERING EXPERTISE • OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



WORK PROCESS AND SCHEDULE



Hours

- Project hours for this site will be 7AM to 6PM Monday through Friday, subject to applicable Conditional Use Permits and location zoning ordinances
- Work hours will comply with local noise ordinances

Controlled Access

- Work area is surrounded by 8' wall. Access gates will remain closed at all times
- Signs will inform public of possible dangers within work areas
- All traffic in and out of site will be piloted with a flagger to ensure safe ingress and egress





MITIGATION RELATED TO WORK PROCESS

Dust, Vapor, and Odor Control

- Job site is paved and asphalt, no dust from well abandonment operations are anticipated
- Any surface work done will utilize fresh water on site to minimize dust
- Off gases from well abandonment operations are controlled through directing them to contained vessels or thermal oxidation.
- Stockpiled materials are contained within covered bins or within impermeable barriers. During removal they may be treated for vapor and odor control.
- Citrus Solv is a natural, nonhazardous EPA approved substance made from orange peels which is highly effective at controlling odors
- On-site workers visually monitor as well as utilize real-time devices that detect vapors.
 - Personal H₂S Monitors
 - 4-way Gas Monitors for overall site safety





MITIGATION RELATED TO WORK PROCESS (CONT.)

Noise can vary between 80 to 100 decibels within the work zone

- Noise levels will be like a vacuum or lawnmower within the work zone but will dissipate further away from the work area
- Noise will be mitigated with sound barriers when necessary, during working hours
- Crews typically operate with hand signals and radios

Traffic

- Only authorized vehicles will be allowed within the work areas
- Engineering controls will minimize traffic to site



Contact Information

Southern District

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Southern District Project Manager

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CalGEM Chief Deputy of Field Operations

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Driltek Local Contractor

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Bakersfield, CA 93309
661-327-3021

Chief Operations Officer - Lane H. Linthicum
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An accessible emergency response plan for the community is in a draft phase and will be shared online at conservation.ca.gov and distributed to key local community organizations

WellSTAR Questions: WellSTAR@conservation.ca.gov

Community Engagement and Public Transparency: CalGEMPublicTransparencyOffice@conservation.ca.gov

Submit a Community Concern: CommunityConcern@conservation.ca.gov



Thank you

Questions?