California
Department of
Conservation

CalGEM

Oxnard Community Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 6:00 PM

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Welcome

Doug Ito
State Oil and Gas Supervisor

Agenda

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

6:00 | **Welcome**, Jeanette Ochoa, facilitator
- Doug Ito, State Oil and Gas Supervisor

6:05 | **Overview of State Well Abandonment Program**
- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

6:10 | **Wells Scheduled for Work Locally**
- Ibukun Ajayi, Supervising Oil and Gas Engineer

6:20 | **Overview of How Plugging and Sealing an Oil Well Works**
- Robert Schaaf, State Abandonment Program Manager

6:35 | **Local Work – Process and Schedule**
- Adrian Almazan, Driltek (local contractor)
  - Work hours
  - Signage
  - Mitigation: traffic, dust, noise, smell
  - Questions

6:50 | **Open to Questions and Comments**

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OVERVIEW OF

STATE WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

Robert Schaaf,
State Abandonment Program Manager

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

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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)

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PROJECTS ADDRESS HIGH RISK WELLS IN COMMUNITIES

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

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SCHEDULED WELLS IN YOUR AREA

Ibukun Ajayi
Senior Oil and Gas Engineer - Supervisor
Northern District (562) 501-5564

STATE ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

Phase 1 wells in the Northern (Ventura) District Program

VENTURA AND LA COUNTY STATE ABANDONMENTS

Oxnard: 39

West Mantalvo: 6

Saticoy: 2

Simi Valley: 2

Placerita: 2

Total: 51 Wells

PROJECT TIMELINE – Phase 1

51 Wells

2024 2025

Q1 2024 | **April** | **May** | **June** | **July** | **Q2 2025**

- ✓ Environmental Site Assessments
- ✓ CEQA Exemptions
- ✓ Surface Owners Outreach
- ✓ Site Walkthrough

- ✓ Biologist Survey
- ✓ Site Access Agreements

- ✓ Pre-Plug Methane Testing

- ✓ Agencies Kick-Off Meetings
- ✓ Community Outreach - June 18th, 2024

- ❖ Start-Up

- ❖ Complete

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WELL ABANDONMENT PROCESS

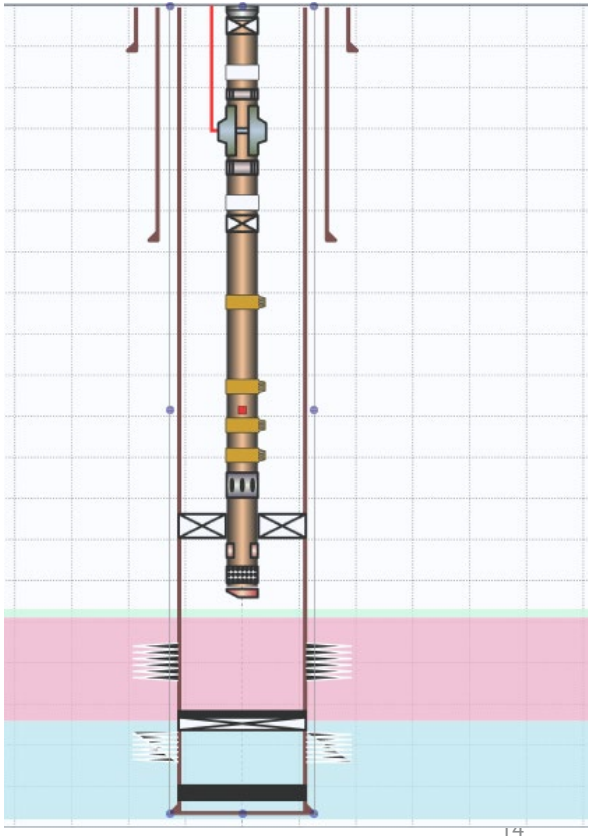
Robert Schaaf,
State Abandonment Program Manager

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**

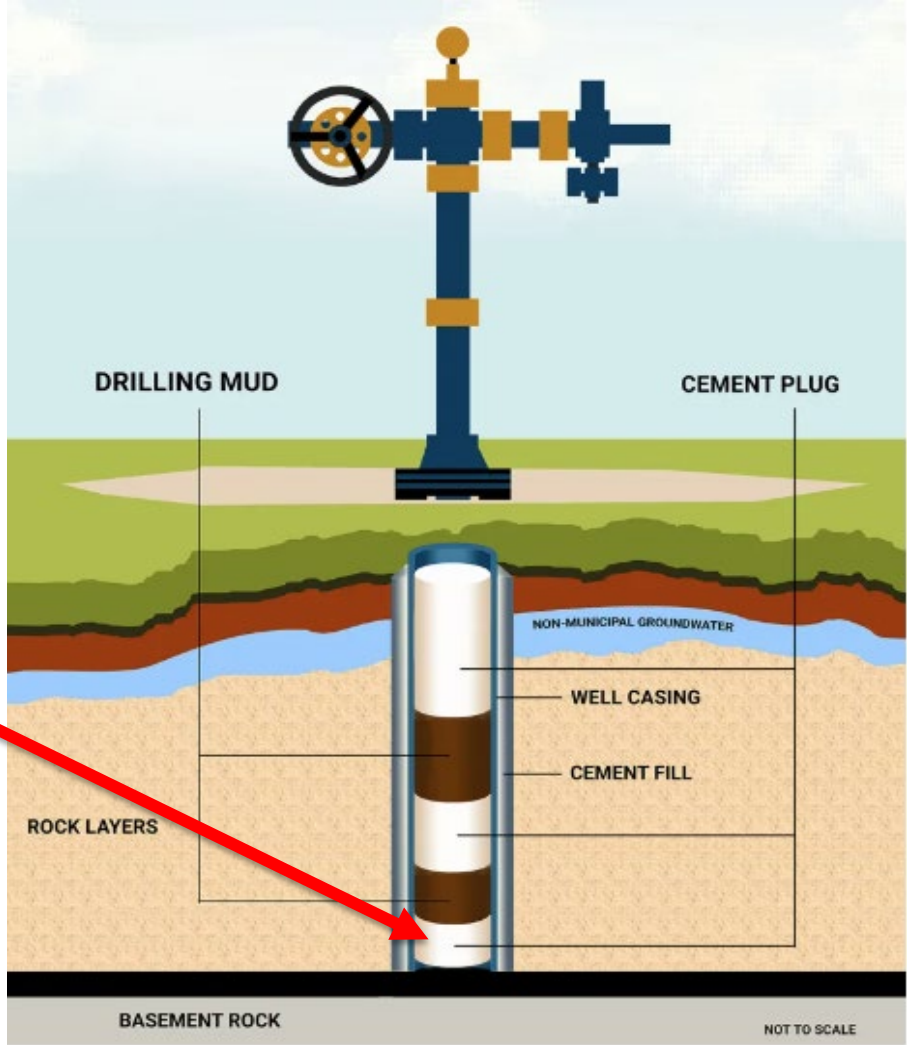
STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

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



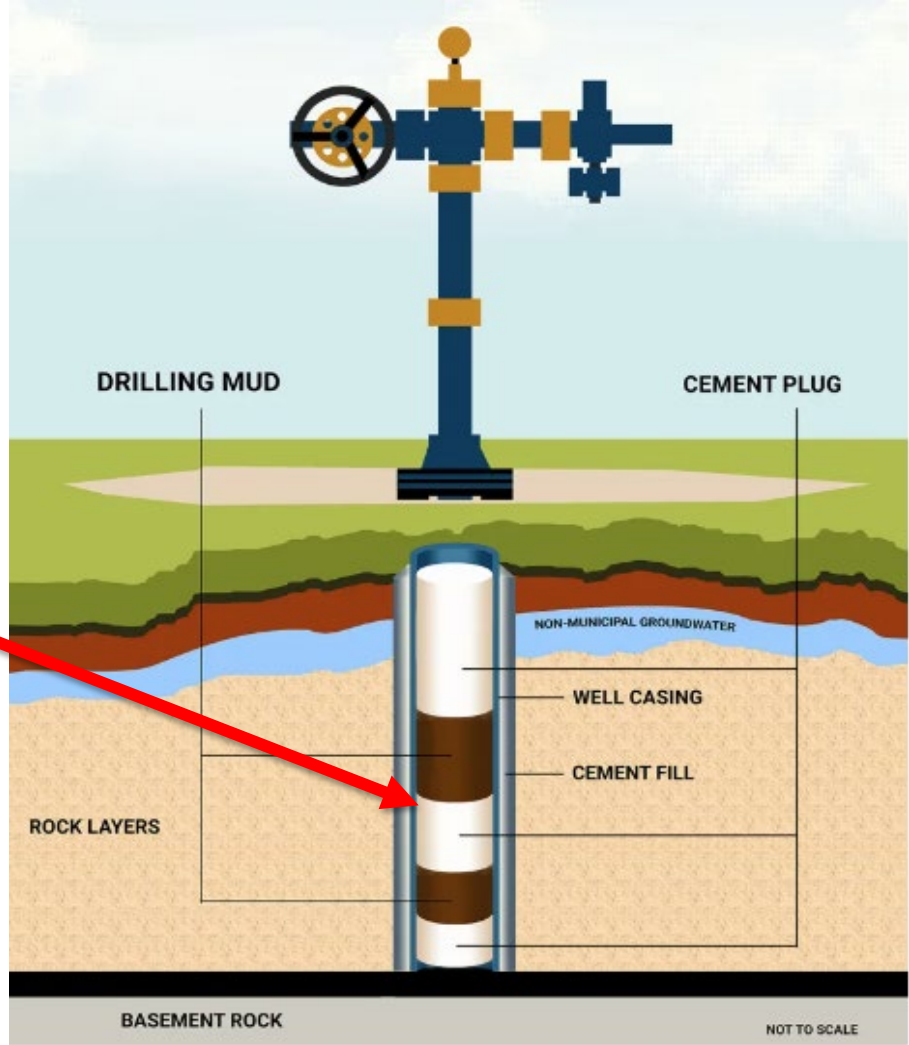
STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

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)



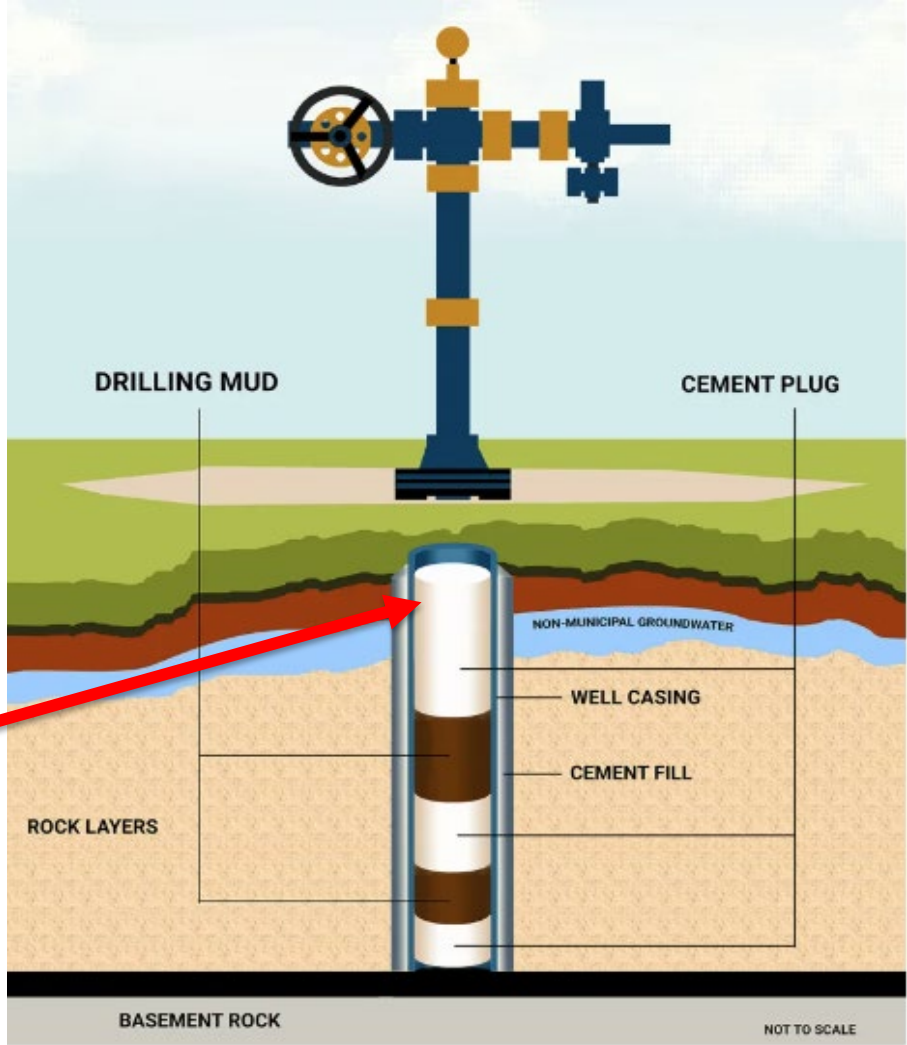
STEPS TO PROPERLY ABANDON WELLS

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

DRILTEK

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LOCAL WORK – PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

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Hours

- Typical project hours are 6AM 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

- Barriers and access controls will be used to ensure the public does not access work areas
- Signs will inform public of possible dangers within work areas
- Cones and signs will be used in areas of traffic congestion and heavy pedestrian traffic to ensure stakeholder safety

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Geologic Energy Management

Dust, Vapor, and Odor Control

- Dust and particulates are generally mitigated with the use of water. Applied by water trucks, or by hand, surfaces are wetted to control generation and migration of particulates.
- Vehicle speed controls are enforced to minimize dust production.
- Off gases from well abandonment operations are generally controlled through directing them to contained vessels or thermal destruction.
- 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 H_2S Monitors
  - 4-way Gas Monitors for overall site safety

Source: Mine Safety Institute Premier Safety Training
https://minesafetyinstitute.org/water-truck-safety/

MITIGATION RELATED TO WORK PROCESS (CONT.)

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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
- Limiting traffic and enforcing site speed limits will assist in reducing dust

Thank you

Any questions?

Sarah Rubin
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