



NOTICE OF PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION

Notice Published November 6, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, is considering recommending that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) approve an aquifer exemption for the following Proposal Area:

Field: Kern River Oil Field
County: Kern County, California
Class and Well Type: Class II, Enhanced Oil Recovery
Geologic Formations: Kern River and upper Chanac Formations
Federal Exemption Criteria: 40 CFR §§ 146.4(a) and 146.4(b)(1)

If approved by the US EPA, this aquifer exemption proposal would clarify that the Proposal Area may be a suitable location for Class II injection to occur. However, approval of the proposed aquifer exemption would not, by itself, authorize any new injection activity. Approval to operate a Class II injection project involves a regulatory process separate from aquifer exemption.

CalGEM and the State Water Board invite comments from the public regarding whether this aquifer exemption proposal meets the criteria for recommendation to the US EPA.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING

<u>Written Comments</u>	<u>Public Hearing</u>
Written comments regarding the proposed action may be submitted in any of the following ways: • By email to comments@conservation.ca.gov • By mail to: ATTN: Aquifer Exemption Department of Conservation 715 P Street, MS 1803 Sacramento, CA 95814 Comment Deadline: 5 pm, December 22, 2022	December 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm CalGEM Central District Office, 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield, CA 93311 Following a brief presentation describing the aquifer exemption proposal, CalGEM and State Water Board staff will provide an opportunity for the public to present oral comments regarding the proposed action.



Language Services at the Public Hearing

Services, such as translation between English and other languages, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of these services, please make your request no later than ten working days prior to the hearing by calling (916) 322-3080.

Servicios, como traducción de Inglés a otros idiomas, pueden hacerse disponibles si usted los pide en avance. Para asegurar la disponibilidad de éstos servicios, por favor haga su petición al mínimo de diez días laborables antes de la reunión, llamando al (916) 322-3080.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Following the written comment period and public hearing, CalGEM and State Water Board staff will review all timely and relevant comments received (including oral comments received at the hearing). CalGEM and State Water Board staff will then consider whether to make any changes to the aquifer exemption proposal. If CalGEM and State Water Board staff make any substantial changes to the scope of the proposed aquifer exemption, they will provide notice of a 15-day supplemental period to receive public comments on those changes.

After reviewing the comments received, CalGEM and State Water Board staff will decide whether to submit the proposed aquifer exemption to the US EPA for its review and possible approval. If CalGEM and State Water Board elect to submit the proposed aquifer exemption to the US EPA, CalGEM will produce, in cooperation with State Water Board staff, a document that summarizes the substantive comments received and the disposition of those comments and will include that document among the materials sent to the US EPA, along with a copy of all comments received.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Important information regarding the legal criteria and factual observations pertinent to this aquifer exemption proposal is summarized in a Statement of Basis document.

The Statement of Basis document, along with the other materials supporting this aquifer exemption proposal, are available online via CalGEM's website:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Aquifer-Exemptions-Status.aspx>

Inquiries regarding this notice may be directed to:

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