



Public Notice

The California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division (“CalGEM”), with preliminary concurrence from the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”), is considering a proposal to expand the current aquifer exemption designation for the Kern River Reservoir in the Kern River Oil Field located north of Bakersfield. Subject to approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency (“US EPA”), the proposed aquifer exemption would allow the State, in compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, to approve Class II injection into the identified area for enhanced oil recovery. Following consultation required under Public Resources Code section 3131, CalGEM and the State Water Board preliminarily concur that the proposed aquifer exemption area meets the criteria for exemption under the Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 146.4, because it does not currently serve as a source of drinking water, and it will not serve as a source of drinking water in the future because the area is currently hydrocarbon producing in commercially producible quantities. CalGEM and the State Water Board also preliminarily concur that, due to geologic conditions and hydraulic controls, the injected fluid is expected to remain in the area that would be exempted and is not expected to affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use. CalGEM will host a public comment hearing to provide information and accept public comments at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025 at the CalGEM Central District Office, 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield, CA 93311. Written comments can be submitted by email to Comments@conservation.ca.gov; by facsimile (FAX) to (916) 324-0948; by mail to: Department of Conservation, 715 P Street, MS 1803 Sacramento, CA 95814, ATTN: Aquifer Exemption; or by submitting them at the public comment hearing. The written comment period closes at 5:00 PM on Monday, December 22nd, 2025 and CalGEM will not consider any comments received at any of the CalGEM offices after that time. The complete aquifer exemption proposal, including pertinent data, can be accessed at <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Aquifer-Exemptions-Status.aspx>, or obtained from the CalGEM Central District Office, 11000 River Run Boulevard, Bakersfield, CA 93311. If CalGEM and the State Water Board elect to submit the aquifer exemption proposal to the US EPA, CalGEM will prepare a document that (1) announces the decision, (2) provides a concise statement of the basis for the decision, and (3) summarizes the substantive comments received (including the oral comments received at the hearing) and the disposition of those comments.

Signed: Chris Jones, Inland District Deputy