



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the lead state agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to adopt the draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) for the San Ardo 2024 Wells Project. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15072, this Notice is to inform responsible agencies and other interested parties of the availability of the draft ISMND and solicit comments and concerns regarding the environmental issues associated with the proposed project. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15105.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Aera Energy, LLC applied to CalGEM for permits to drill six new cyclic steam injection wells and two new steamflood injection wells within the San Ardo Oil Field in Monterey County, California. The proposed project includes the drilling of 6 new cyclic steam injection wells and 2 new steamflood injection wells, some potential grading on existing well pads, and the installation of new pumping units and flowlines, located on approximately 2.9 acres of private land, there will be no new ground disturbance as a result of project implementation.

LOCATION: The proposed project will be in Monterey County, California, approximately five miles south of the town of San Ardo, and 20 miles north of the City of Paso Robles. The project area is located within the San Ardo Oil Field. The proposed location will be in and around Section 12, Township 23 South, Range 10 East, MDB&M on APN: 423-081-018-000 (Lat: 35.939040 Long: -120.835898). The proposed project is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15072, subd. (g)(5).)

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The draft ISMND describes potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Public Services, and Tribal Cultural Resources. Mitigation measures have been included to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. All other resource areas evaluated were found to have no impact or to be less than significant without mitigation.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The draft ISMND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of not less than thirty (30) days, beginning January 29, 2026, and ending February 27, 2026, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15105. No public meetings are planned for the proposed project. Written comments should be received by February 27, 2026. Written comments may be sent by mail to:



California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Jennifer Lucchesi, Director

California Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM)
Attn: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project
715 P Street, MS 19-06
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be sent via email to Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov.

AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: The draft ISMND is now available for public review during normal business hours at CalGEM's Sacramento Office located at 715 P Street, MS 19-06, Sacramento, CA 95814. Additionally, the document is available for viewing on the following websites:

- <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/CEQA>
- <https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/home>
- <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>

For any questions or for distribution of a hard copy of the draft ISMND, please contact Christine Roybal (Christine.Roybal@conservation.ca.gov) and include "Attn: San Ardo 2024 Wells Project" in the subject line.

DocuSigned by:
Davis Kratz
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Davis S. Kratz
Department of Conservation, Attorney IV

1/26/2026

Date