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8 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
9 **NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**
11 **GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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14 **ORDER TO PLUG AND ABANDON WELL,**
15 **DECOMMISSION ATTENDANT FACILITY,**
16 **AND RESTORE WELL SITE**
17 **NO. 1420**

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19 **Operator: Princeton Natural Gas, LLC (P4675)**
20 **King Island Gas Field**
21 **Northern District, San Joaquin County**
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I. Introduction

The State Oil and Gas Supervisor (**Supervisor**), acting through the Geologic Energy Management Division (**CalGEM**), and under the authority of Division 3 of the Public Resources Code (**PRC**; commencing with PRC section 3000) and California Code of Regulations, title 14 (**Regulations**), may order the plugging and abandonment of a well or the decommissioning of a production facility that has been deserted, whether or not any damage is occurring, or threatened, by reason of that deserted well. (PRC, § 3237, subd. (a).) An operator's failure to timely pay required annual fees for any idle well is conclusive evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3206, subds. (a) and (c).)

Based on CalGEM's records, Princeton Natural Gas, LLC (**Operator**) is the "operator" (as defined in PRC section 3009) of the well "Piacentine" 1-27 (API No. 0407720484) (the **Well**), and is responsible (as specified in PRC section 3237, subdivision (c)(1)) for the plugging and abandonment of the Well, the decommissioning of the production facility attendant to the Well (**the Facility**), and the restoration of the well site for the Well. CalGEM records indicate that, under applicable provisions of PRC section 3206, Operator was required to timely pay idle well fees for the Well for years 2022, 2023, and 2024, and that Operator has not done so. This failure to timely pay idle well fees is conclusive evidence of desertion, based upon which the Supervisor has determined that the Well and the Facility are deserted. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206, 3224, 3226, and 3237, and as set forth below, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to plug and abandon the Well, to decommission the Facility, and to restore the well site for the Well, consistent with all applicable requirements, including PRC sections 3208, 3228, 3229, and 3230; Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1723.8, 1724 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776; and the conditions included in any permit/approval CalGEM may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229; and until that work is complete, perform remedial work and testing as necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources.

Attachment A, incorporated herein, contains a list of definitions and authorities that are applicable to this order.

1 with PRC section 3350. (PRC, §§ 3225, subd. (d); 3236.5, subd. (c); 3237, subd. (b).) If this Order
2 is mailed to you, the Director must receive the appeal within (15) days from the date the
3 Supervisor mails the Order. To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal may be sent via U.S.
4 mail to:

5 Department of Conservation
6 Director's Office of Appeals
7 715 P Street, MS 19-06 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)
8 Sacramento, California 95814

9 Or via electronic mail:

10 CalGEMAppeals@conservation.ca.gov

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12 If Operator files a timely written notice of appeal, Operator will be informed of the
13 appeal hearing date, time, and place. Following the hearing, Operator will receive a written
14 decision that affirms, sets aside, or modifies the appealed order.

15 If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the order is affirmed
16 following an appeal, this order will become a final order and CalGEM may contract for
17 performance of the work, pursuant to PRC section 3226, if, within 30 days of this order,
18 Operator has not, in good faith, commenced the work ordered. Any costs incurred by
19 CalGEM to obtain compliance with this order (which may include penalties and interest) will
20 constitute a lien against Operator's real or personal property per PRC section 3423. (PRC, §
21 3356.)

22 **V. Consequences of Non-Compliance**

23 Failure to comply with Section III (Operator's Required Actions) of this order could
24 subject Operator to further enforcement action. PRC section 3236 makes it a misdemeanor for
25 any person who violates, fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of the
26 oil and gas conservation laws commencing at PRC section 3000. PRC sections 3236.2 and
27 3236.3 authorizes the Supervisor to refer for civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to
28 comply with an order or for violation of any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or

1 any regulation that implements those statutes. PRC section 3236.5 authorizes the Supervisor to
 2 impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the
 3 PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes, and the Supervisor may in the future
 4 impose further civil penalties based on the facts and omissions underlying this order. PRC
 5 section 3237 authorizes the Supervisor to order the plugging and abandonment of a well or
 6 the decommissioning of a production facility if an operator has failed to comply with an order
 7 of the Supervisor within the time provided by the order or has failed to challenge the order on
 8 a timely basis. PRC section 3359 makes it a misdemeanor to fail or neglect to comply with an
 9 order of the Supervisor. Each day's further failure, refusal, or neglect is a separate and distinct
 10 offense. (PRC, § 3359.) By issuance of this Order, the Supervisor does not waive the right to take
 11 further enforcement actions. PRC sections 3236.2 and 3236.3 authorizes the Supervisor to seek
 12 civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to comply with an order or for violation of any
 13 provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes.

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 17 DATED: 8/8/2024

Elizabeth Yura
 Elizabeth Yura Deputy Supervisor on behalf of
 Doug Ito
 State Oil and Gas Supervisor