



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

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## NOTICE TO GEOTHERMAL OPERATORS

Subject: Geothermal Well Record Confidentiality

Section 4 of Chapter 254, Statutes of 2007 (SB 1051) was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger and became effective as an urgency statute on September 26, 2007.

Under newly amended Section 3752 of the Public Resources Code, geothermal well records may remain confidential for a period of five years from the cessation of drilling operations when requested by the operator so long as the lease has not expired or terminated. Previously, the period ran from the commencement of production or injection operations. The period of confidentiality may be extended for no more than four six-month periods beyond five years from cessation of drilling operations based on a showing by the operator of extenuating circumstances. In addition, an operator may request an even longer extension which may be granted only after a public notice and comment period.

To ensure geothermal operators are given the opportunity to request an extension of confidentiality for wells affected by this change, the Division will not immediately open to the public confidential geothermal well records for wells on leases that have not terminated or expired and whose drilling operations ceased more than five years ago.

Within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice, operators with confidential records for such wells may request extensions of confidentiality under Section 3752(a)(4). If a request for extension is not filed within this thirty-day period, the well records will be opened to the public. If a request for extension is filed, the Division will act upon it expeditiously within the parameters of Section 3752, which include giving preference to public disclosure and extending confidentiality only in limited situations where an operator makes a compelling showing of extenuating circumstances.

Should you have any questions concerning this Notice, please contact the Geothermal Officer in Sacramento or the local Division geothermal district office.

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Hal Bopp  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor