



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

February 9, 2017

Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
State Oil and Gas Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
California Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Re: Aquifer Exemption Requests for the Fruitvale, Round Mountain, and Tejon Oil Fields,
Kern County, California

Dear Mr. Harris:

Based on a thorough review of the extensive supporting documents submitted by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hereby provides notice of approval of three separate requests to expand existing aquifer exemptions for the following formations in Kern County, California:

- Specified portion of the Santa Margarita formation in the Fruitvale Oil Field (submitted November 8, 2016);
- Specified portions of the Jewett Sand, Pyramid Hill Sand, Vedder Formation, and Walker Formation in the Round Mountain Oil Field (submitted November 30, 2016); and
- Specified portion of the Transition Zone in the Tejon Oil Field (submitted December 2, 2016).

Details of the approved aquifer exemption boundaries and depths, along with our analyses and rationale in support of the approvals are detailed in the enclosed Records of Decision, also available at <https://www.epa.gov/pacific-southwest-media-center/epas-oversight-californias-underground-injection-control-uic-program>. In accordance with applicable regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144, 145, and 146, we find that the requests are non-substantial program revisions and the requested formations meet federal exemption criteria:

- All portions of the formations proposed for exemption in the three oil fields do not currently serve as sources of drinking water;
- The portions of the formations proposed for exemption in the Round Mountain and Tejon oil fields cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because they are commercially hydrocarbon producing;

- The portion of the formation proposed for exemption in the Fruitvale oil field has more than 3,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and less than 10,000 mg/L total dissolved solids content, and is not reasonably expected to supply a public water system.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Montgomery, Assistant Director, Water Division, at (415) 972-3438.

Sincerely,



Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

Enclosures (3):

1. Aquifer Exemption Record of Decision for Fruitvale Oil Field
2. Aquifer Exemption Record of Decision for Round Mountain Oil Field
3. Aquifer Exemption Record of Decision for Tejon Oil Field

cc: Jonathon Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board