



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

March 8, 2021

Sent by e-mail only

Uduak-Joe Ntuk  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor  
Geologic Energy Management Division  
California Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Re: Approval of Aquifer Exemption for the Jacalitos and Coalinga Oil Fields, Fresno County, California

Dear Mr. Ntuk:

Based on a thorough review of the supporting documents submitted by the California Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby approves the aquifer exemption request for portions of the Temblor Formation in the Jacalitos and Coalinga Oil Fields, in Fresno County, California.

In accordance with applicable regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144, 145, and 146, we find that this aquifer exemption request is a non-substantial program revision, and the requested formation meets the following federal exemption criteria:

- The portions of the formation proposed for exemption in the field do not currently serve as sources of drinking water; and
- The portions of the formation proposed for exemption in the field cannot now and will not in the future serve as sources of drinking water because they are commercially hydrocarbon-producing.

The approved aquifer exemption boundaries and depths, along with the EPA's analysis and rationale in support of the approval, are detailed in the enclosed Record of Decision. In addition, we are enclosing the application and other documents submitted by the CalGEM and SWRCB to the EPA that were considered in this approval decision. Due to the size of these additional enclosures, we are providing, via email, a link to an electronic folder containing all the remaining documents.

If you have any questions, or if you have any difficulty accessing the electronic folder, please contact David Albright, Manager of our Groundwater Protection Section, at (415) 972-3971.

Sincerely,

Gullatt, Kristin

Digitally signed by Gullatt,  
Kristin  
Date: 2021.03.08 10:54:18  
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Tomás Torres  
Director, Water Division

Enclosures: Aquifer Exemption Record of Decision for Jacalitos and Coalinga Oil Fields  
GIS Shape Files of Approved Aquifer Exemption  
Final Jacalitos and Coalinga Exemption Application  
Letter from Uduak-Joe Ntuk to David Albright dated March 2, 2021

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