



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 13, 2017

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.
State Oil and Gas Commissioner
Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Harris,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your September 27, 2017 letter, and accompanying aquifer exemption proposal for an expansion of the aquifer exemption for the Lombardi and Aurignac Sands in the San Ardo and McCool Ranch oil fields. The state's proposal seeks to expand the boundaries of the currently exempted formations under the criteria set forth in 40 CFR § 146.4 (a) and (c). While EPA has expeditiously reviewed the proposed aquifer exemption and supporting materials, in consideration of your November 7, 2017 request, EPA will extend the review period to allow the state to supplement the data supporting the aquifer exemption proposal.

Therefore, please be advised that EPA will not make a final determination on the state's proposed exemption package within the 45-day period described at 40 CFR § 144.7(b)(3) as the submitted exemption package is not complete. We look forward to working with you to move this package forward once the supplemental information has been received by EPA. If you have any questions, please contact David Albright at (415) 972-3971.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tomás Torres", written over a horizontal line.

Tomás Torres *November 13, 2017*
Director, Water Division

cc: Jonathan Bishop, Deputy Executive Director, SWRCB
Pat Abel, District Deputy, Coastal District, DOGGR