



Department of Conservation

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources – District 3

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: Janice Zinky, State Water Board
Oil & Gas Monitoring Unit Chief

Ken Harris, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Executive Officer

FROM: Patricia A. Abernethy 
District Deputy

SUBJECT: AQUIFER EXEMPTION – DOLLIE SANDS, PISMO FORMATION, ARROYO
GRANDE FIELD

The Division believes the information regarding the proposed exemption transmitted to you electronically demonstrates the proposed exemption meets the criteria specified in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 146.4 because the groundwater within the proposed exemption does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and will not serve as a source of drinking water in the future. The aquifer within the extent of the proposed exemption is actively producing hydrocarbons and is expected to produce commercial quantities of hydrocarbons in the future.

On Wednesday July 29, 2015, we met with you and your staff to present and discuss the information supporting the proposed exemption. The information included a description of the hydrocarbon and groundwater resources, geology, and hydrogeology which included a discussion of the reduction of piezometric potential by net withdrawal of fluids from the syncline. The Division previously provided the information to you electronically prior to the July 29 meeting, and provided revised information to you electronically on August 4, 2015.

The information submitted electronically represents the Division's submission of the proposed exemption to the State Water Resources Control Board. Upon receiving from the State Water Resources Control Board written concurrence for the proposed exemption the Division will proceed with the public notification announcing the initiation of the public comment period, and the posting the supporting data on our website for public review.