Public Notice – 401 Certification Application

Date:

March 1, 2022

Applicant:
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Project Name:

Hell's Kitchen Well Pad 4 and S-Berm Access Road Project, Located west of the city of Niland, Imperial County, California 92233

WDID No. 7A133170001, RM 446590, Place ID 879378

Receiving Water:

IID S-Drain

Location:

City or area: Located on undeveloped land west of Niland, CA, Imperial County, California 92233

Latitude/Longitude: N 33°13'51.927, W -115°35'44.316

Section, Township, Range: Section 2 and 11; 11S; 13E

Project Description:

The project is proposing to construct an access road (S-Berm Access Road) and exploratory well pad (Well Pad 4) within wetlands and waters of the State of California ("waters of the State") to determine the feasibility of future mineral extraction and geothermal energy production.

The S-Berm Access Road to Well Pad 4 would be constructed from the existing IID S-Berm Road of imported aggregate fill materials with a 3:1 slope along the road edge and a height of 2 to 3 feet to address Imperial County flood control requirements. This road would begin at the existing S-Berm Road and would extend south approximately 612-feet to the northern boundary of Well Pad 4. The S-Berm access road would be constructed on geotextile stabilizing fabric, Tensar geogrid2, 1 ½ inch rock, and Class II aggregate base fill material that would be imported from a commercial aggregate material supplier within Imperial County. Approximately 1,088 cubic yards of Class II

aggregate material and 3,264 cubic yards of crushed rock would be used to construct the S-Berm Access Road. The entire S-Berm would be compacted to accommodate loads of 80,000 lbs (a minimum of 95% of ASTM D1557 maximum density at optimum moisture). The berm and road would be constructed in accordance with the Imperial County engineering design guidelines per County Standard Drawing No. 440 (Imperial County, 2008). All materials are required to meet County Standards as identified in the Imperial County Engineering design guidelines (Imperial County, 2008). An 80-foot long, 10-feet wide by 4-feet tall reinforced concrete pipe with 16-foot flared end sections would be installed beneath the S-Berm Access Road to convey water from the S-Drain beneath the road. Approximately 30 cubic yards of six-inch rip-rap would be installed at the upstream and downstream ends of the culvert, totaling 60 cubic yards, for scour protection. An open cut diversion ditch will be constructed to divert the S-Drain around the work area during culvert and rip-rap installation. Sandbags and rip-rap will be placed within the S-Drain to ensure water stays within the diversion ditch during culvert installation. The temporary diversion ditch will be restored to existing grade and all temporary fill materials will be removed from the S-Drain following culvert construction completion.

Well Pad 4 would be constructed south of the terminus of the S-Berm Access Road. Well Pad 4 will be 300 feet by 700 feet at the top of the well pad. The well pad would be constructed on a geotextile stabilizing fabric and Tensar geogrid to create a stable work surface. The geogrid would be filled with approximately 36 inches of crushed rock, which would be covered with 12 inches of Class II aggregate base, compacted to engineering guidelines. The surface of the well pad would be approximately 28 inches above the existing site grade. A one-foot-tall berm would be located at the outer perimeter of the well pad for storm water management, in accordance with County requirements. The berm would have a 2:1 slope and aggregate material and 14,630 cubic yards of crushed rock would be used to construct Well Pad 4. The well pad would be enclosed within a 6-foot-high fence to prevent unauthorized access and vandalism. Up to four geothermal exploration and monitoring wells would be drilled at Well Pad 4. Each well would include surface casing and several valves extending several feet above the pad surface.

Anticipated Project Start and End Dates:

March 6, 2022 – July 6, 2022

US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit Number(s):

Los Angeles Individual Permit

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

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