

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2013-XXXX
AERA ENERGY LLC
POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION
NORTH SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS
NORTH BELRIDGE OIL FIELD, KERN COUNTY

Aera Energy LLC (Discharger) owns and maintains a former oil field produced water disposal facility contained 16 unlined surface impoundments in the North Belridge Oil Field. The former impoundments cover 35 acres and received the Discharger's non-hazardous oil field produced water and treatment backwash water (wastewater) for disposal by evaporation and percolation. Disposal of wastewater occurred from the 1950s until 2007.

In 1958, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements Resolution No. 58-183 (WDRs). The proposed WDRs would classify the facility as Class II surface impoundments in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 27, section 20090(b). In 2000, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 5-00-854.

During 2008 and early 2009, the Discharger closed the facility with some residual waste remaining in place beneath an engineered cover soil. Closure activities included excavation of waste and significantly impacted soil, confirmation soil sampling to determine that waste and significantly impacted soil were excavated, construction of a one-foot foundation, a minimum one-foot of clean soil as final cover, establishing native vegetation on the cover soil, and submittal of a Closure Certification Report. The Report certified that the facility was closed in accordance with the approved closure plan and addendum. The facility has been closed and capped in accordance with Title 27, eliminating any additional threat to groundwater.

The Central Valley Water Board is proposing new WDRs that describe requirements for post-closure maintenance and monitoring of the closed facility and groundwater monitoring and reporting.

The Discharger conducted a hydrogeologic investigation and determined that groundwater impacted by wastewater from the facility is present at depths of up to approximately 230 feet below ground surface and to a distance exceeding approximately 6,000 feet northeast and downgradient from the facility. Post-closure groundwater monitoring will be conducted at seven wells located at strategic locations.

The beneficial uses of groundwater beneath the area, as designated by Table II-2 in the Basin Plan, are municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, and industrial service supply. There are no municipal or domestic supply wells in the area. The nearest water supply wells are in unincorporated Spicer City about 11 miles east-northeast of the facility.

The Discharger submitted a groundwater corrective action plan, which considered three corrective action alternatives: (1) no further action; (2) monitored natural attenuation (MNA); and, (3) groundwater containment/extraction and treatment. The Discharger proposed to monitor the natural attenuation of the constituents of concern

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(total dissolved solids, chloride, and boron) in groundwater monitoring wells. MNA was determined to be the appropriate corrective action. Closure of the former impoundments will result in greater protection for human health, the environment, and water quality.