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California
**Department of
Conservation**
CalGEM

California Geologic Energy Management (CalGEM) Division's Geothermal Permitting

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CalGEM's Geothermal Permitting is focused on Geothermal Wells

only for wells in private and/or state lands/minerals

- **CEQA analysis**
- **Administrative requirements**
- **Well construction and reworks**
- **Well operation and maintenance**
- **Well plugging and final abandonment**

CEQA Process

- **Geothermal Expoloration Projects**
 - CalGEM is lead agency
 - County can also be CEQA lead
- **Geothermal Development Projects**
 - CalGEM is responsible agency
- **Analysis focused on impacts from well construction activities and operation**

Administration

- **Agent Designation**
- **Well Transfer Documentation if existing wells are involved**
- **Well Bonding**
- **Drilling fees**
- **Annual Well Assessments**

Permitting of Well Construction and Operation

- **Notice of Intention filing**
 - **conversion of wells into injection**
- **Administrative requirements – well bond, drilling fees if applicable**
- **Well construction (drilling and completion) program**
- **Permit will outline**
 - **Blowout Prevention Equipment (BOPE) requirements**
 - **Casing and cementing requirements**
 - **Notification requirements for well construction testing and witnessing**
 - **Reporting requirements**
 - **Periodic testing requirements**
 - **Operational limits**

Permitting of Well Injection

- **Project Application requirements**
 - **Area of Review study**
 - **Notification**
 - **EPA**
 - **RWQCB / SWB**
 - **Public Comment process**
- **Project Approval Letter (Permit) will outline**
 - **Reporting requirements**
 - **Periodic testing and monitoring requirements**
 - **Operational limits including pressure maximums**
 - **Annual review**
 - **Permit revisions/updates**

Summary

- **Well permits**
 - **If CEQA is complete, administrative requirements met and proposed well construction/rework program and data is complete, a permit can be issued.**
 - **If all above is met, a permit is usually issued within 10 working days.**
 - **Good for 1 year and option to extend upon written request. If an exploration CEQA was required, the permit is good for 2 years.**
- **Injection project permit**
 - **Project Approval Letter (Permit) will outline**
 - **Reporting requirements**
 - **Periodic testing and monitoring requirements**
 - **Operational limits**
 - **Annual review**
 - **Permit revisions/updates**