State of California Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

California Environmental Quality Act

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning & Research **From:** I

State Clearinghouse

1400 Tenth Street, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95814 From: Department of Conservation

Geologic Energy Management Division

801 K Street, MS 18-05 Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Larry Kleinecke (916) 445-9686

Lead Agency:

Kern County Planning & Community Development Department

2700 M Street, Suite 100 Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

661) 862-8600

State Clearinghouse #: SCH# 2013081079

Lead Agency Project Title: Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance – 2020(A), Focus on Oil

and Gas Local Permitting

Project Activity Title: Aera South Belridge UIC#052-00-0002

Project Applicant:

Aera Energy LLC

Project Location: South Belridge Oil Field

County: <u>Kern</u> <u>Section: 2,3,4,10,11,32,33,34</u>

Township: 27S, 28S Range/Baseline: 20E/MD B&M

Latitude/Longitude: 35.4229, -119.6926

Project Description:

The project activity is within the scope of Title 19, Chapter 19.98 of Kern County Zoning Code (Oil and Gas Production), which dictates site development standards for all oil and gas exploration, extraction, operations, and production activities in unincorporated Kern County. The Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the CEQA responsible agency, will be issuing a permit for the proposed project activity, which consists of the following:

Aera Energy LLC has applied for a new UIC Water Disposal project #052-00-0002 located in the South Belridge Oil Field. The purpose of the UIC application is for Aera to inject excess produced water from Aera's oil production facilities into the Tulare Formation within the EPA-approved aquifer exemption boundary. The proposed project consists of drilling 75 Class II disposal wells within the proposed UIC project area. Seventy-five wells are proposed to be drilled in 2021 and 2022. The project area includes approximately 3,009 acres or 4.7 square miles.

Details on well locations are online at:

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx

This Notice of Determination (NOD) is to advise that the Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), as the **Responsible Agency** under CEQA, has approved the above project activity on 8/27/2021.

Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, a Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) was prepared and certified by the Lead Agency, Kern County Planning and Community Development Department, for the project "Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance – 2020 (A), Focus on Oil and Gas Local Permitting" (SCH# 2013081079). The SREIR for the project was approved on March 9, 2021 and became effective on April 7, 2021. During the review and approval process for this project activity, CalGEM considered the environmental impacts of the project, as shown in the SREIR prepared by the Lead Agency, and accepts the following determinations made by the Lead Agency:

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1.	Environmental Impacts from the project will ☐ Have a significant effect on the environment ☐ Not have a significant effect on the environment
2.	Environmental Document prepared for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA: ☑ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) ☐ Negative Declaration (ND)
3.	Mitigation Measures were ✓ Made a condition of approval of the project. ☐ Not made a condition of approval of the project.
4.	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) was ☑ Adopted for this project ☐ Not adopted for this project
5.	Statement of Overriding Considerations was ☑ Adopted for this project □ Not adopted for this project
6.	Findings were ✓ Made for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (14 CCR 15091) □ Not made for this project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA (14 CCR 15091)
A copy of the SREIR prepared by Kern County Planning and Community Development Department for the project "Revisions to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance – 2020 (A), Focus on Oil and Gas Local Permitting" (SCH# 2013081079), including the Response To Comments, MMRP, Statement of Overriding Considerations, Findings, and all other related documents, are available for public examination at the Planning and Community Development Department, located at: 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301; or an electronic copy of these documents may be accessed online at: https://kernplanning.com/environmental-doc/oil-and-gas-sreir/ .	
For any additional environmental impacts identified by CalGEM that are beyond those already identified by the Lead Agency, CalGEM has prepared additional documents as part of its Responsible Agency review and approval process for this project activity, as follows:	
$lacktriangle$ No Additional Impacts $\ \square$ MMRP $\ \square$ Findings $\ \square$ Statement of Override	
A copy of these documents may be examined online at the State Clearinghouse: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov .	
	Certified: Larry Kleinscke Date: September 2, 2021 Geologic Energy Management Division

CEQA Unit