

# **Exhibit 9**

## **CalGem Response to VC**

County of Ventura  
Planning Commission Hearing  
Case Nos. PL21-0099 and PL21-0100  
Exhibit 9 - CalGEM Response Letter to Ventura  
County - December 15, 2022



**December 15, 2022**

Dave Ward  
Planning Director  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your letter and interest in oil and gas well State Abandonments. We recognize the importance of upcoming State Abandonment work and are excited about this major investment in combating climate change.

Our team has been working diligently on [State Abandonment efforts](#), including finalizing a robust [screening methodology](#) to screen, rank, and prioritize the more than 5,300 orphan, deserted, and potentially deserted wells statewide.

Regarding your request to verify state abandonment funding amounts, please see below:

1. For fiscal year 2022/23, the Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund (OGGA) is capped at \$5 million annually.
2. As of December 2022, the current Hazardous and Idle-Deserted Well Abatement Fund (HIDWAF) balance is \$23.3 million.
3. The California state legislature appropriated \$50 million for fiscal year 2022/23 and \$50 million for fiscal year 2023/24 to plug and abandon orphan and deserted wells.
4. California was awarded \$25 million in Initial Grant funding from the federal government to be used throughout the state.

If you would like to set up time to discuss State Abandonment efforts in further detail, please contact our CalGEM Public Transparency Officer, Christina Jimenez at [Christina.Jimenez@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Christina.Jimenez@conservation.ca.gov). She can help coordinate a discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Uduak-Joe Ntuk', with a stylized, cursive script.

Uduak-Joe Ntuk  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor