## Idle Wells by County (2020)

- Kern County has 3,698 idle wells, followed by Ventura County with 4,154.
- The county with the second highest number of idle wells is Southern California with 3,089.
- Inland Empire has the least number of idle wells with 1,089.

## Idle Wells by Operator (2020)

- Aera Energy and Chevron U.S.A. are each responsible for over 7,000 idle wells.
- California Resources Corporation has the most idle wells among operators.
- Usually end up paying more fees with fewer idle wells but older ones.

## Fee Per Well

- $1,500 for each well that has been idle for 15 years or longer.
- $1,000 for each well that has been idle for 10 years or longer.
- $750 for each well that has been idle for 5 years or longer.
- $300 for each well that has been idle for 3 years or longer.
- Other fees include $600 for each well that has been idle for 2 years or less.

## Notes:

- CEC analysis of CalGEM data indicates an increase in the number of idle wells in the state.
- More information on the fee program can be found in the CEC report.
- The California Geologic Energy Commission (CalGEM) is responsible for plugging and retiring idle wells.
- There are cases where an idle well returns to production naturally declines and production.
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- The value of an idle well is much lower than the costs associated with plugging and retiring.
- The geological characteristics of the well, the purpose of the system, and the age of the well, it could cost depending on the well location, depth, and other factors.

## Technology (CCST)

- CCST is a study on the impact of idle wells on the environment and economy.
- The study found that the idle wells are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The study also found that the idle wells are a source of water contamination.

## Data

- According to CalGEM's data, there were a total of 37,204 idle wells in 2020.
- The number of idle wells has increased since 2018, when there were 31,443 idle wells.
- The state then becomes responsible for sealing and retiring the well.
- The solvent owner of record is the operator who is responsible for the well.
- The operator is responsible for the well and is responsible for the cost of plugging and retiring the well.
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## Production and Long-Term Idle Wells

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