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April 12, 2011

Mr. Eric Chiang
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94610

Subject: Central Valley Natural Gas Storage Project – Request for Issuance of a Notice to Proceed (NTP 10a) for Installing Berms to Support Preparation of the Natural Gas Pipeline Right of Way

Dear Eric:

Central Valley Gas Storage, LLC (CVGS) is requesting the CPUC's issuance of a notice to proceed (NTP 10a) for installing berms along the pipeline right of way in rice fields. The purpose of installing the berms is to prevent flooding of the pipeline right of way. Currently, the rice farmers are preparing to flood their fields in late April. In order to prevent water from entering the pipeline work area, CVGS would like to start installing the berms sometime after April 1, 2011. Construction of the pipeline will not occur any earlier than June 2011.

As described in Chapter 2 of the PEA, right of way preparation involves removing the top 12 inches of native topsoil and using this soil to construct a berm in rice fields to protect those areas of the pipeline ROW that are subject to rice production flooding (Figure 2-11 in the PEA). Where the pipeline crosses through non-rice fields, the topsoil excavated during trenching would be stockpiled adjacent to the trench and would be segregated from the subsoil. With the exception of the three pipeline realignments on the Southam, Weller, and Perez properties (submitted as part of a variance request to the CPUC), berming activities and access to these areas will occur within work areas that were identified in the Final MND.

CVGS has provided all the applicable permits, plans, and supporting documentation as part of two Mitigation Monitoring Compliance and Reporting Plan submittals to the CPUC (sent on January 25 and February 28, 2011) and additional items emailed on March 11, 2011 to support the NTP #1 request.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Kiefer".

Jim Kiefer
Director Project Development

Central Valley Gas Storage

CC:

David Hochart/Scott Eckardt, Dudek

Homer Savage, Fluor

Sue Bushnell Bergfalk, ICF International