


CENTRAL VALLEY NATURAL GAS STORAGE PROJECT	VARIANCE REQUEST FORM	
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Date Required:	August 15, 2012	Variance Request No.:	No. 18 – Southam #2 Well Access Road Realignment and Reduced Well Pad Work Area Size.
Date Submitted:	August 1, 2012	Location:	The well site is located in an existing orchard, east of McAusland Road (Figure 4-2 in the IS/MND).
Property Owner(s):	Lanza and Laughlin	Parcel No.:	012-110-044
Current Land Use:	Agriculture (orchard)	Sensitive Resources:	None. Site is located in an orchard and does not contain any habitat for special-status species.

Variance from: This variance requests the CPUC’s approval to realign an access road to the existing Southam #2 well site to support re-entry and conversion of the well to an observation well.

Description and Justification for Variance: The original access road (as shown in the IS/MND) came from the south off an existing access road at the south boundary of the orchard. The access road has been planted and is no longer available to use for access purposes. The proposed access road alignment (shown in the attached drawing) would eliminate the need to remove newly planted and existing trees per the original plan. No orchard trees would be removed as part of this new access road alignment and all construction trucks and vehicles would access the pad site between the rows of orchard trees. The landowner has agreed to trim the trees if needed for more clearance.

In addition, Central Valley Gas has reduced the well pad work area to a 60-foot by 70-foot area which is smaller than the originally proposed 0.5 acre (as described in the IS/MND). Therefore, the number of orchard trees that would be removed (estimated to be less than 10 trees) would be substantially less than originally anticipated.

Environmental Analysis: A brief description of the potential environmental effects associated with the new road alignment and smaller pad size is described below.

Aesthetics. The visual impacts would be the same as those described in the IS/MND. No mitigation is required.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources. The access road realignment may require minor trimming of the orchard trees in order to facilitate access to the well pad site. No orchard trees would be removed as part of the access road realignment. As stated above, less than 10 orchard trees would be removed as part of the well pad installation activities. However, because the pad size has been reduced to a smaller area than was originally

proposed, the impacts on agriculture would be less than originally anticipated in the IS/MND. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad site would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. Central Valley Gas will implement the applicable APMs and mitigation measures (e.g., Mitigation Measure AG-1) as part of the well conversion activities. No new mitigation has been identified.

Air Quality and GHG Emissions. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Biological Resources. Southam #2 well pad and the associated access road occur in an orchard with no nearby drainages or canals (suitable habitat for giant garter snake). No sensitive biological resources were previously identified as occurring in this area (based on the analysis contained in the PEA and IS/MND). Therefore, no impacts on biological resources are anticipated and no mitigation has been identified.

Cultural Resources. No impacts on cultural resources are anticipated and no mitigation has been identified.

Geology and Soils. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND for geologic, soil, and seismic site conditions. No mitigation is required.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Hydrology and Water Quality. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND for hydrology and water quality. BMPs described in the project SWPPP will be implemented, where appropriate. No mitigation is required.

Land Use and Planning. No potentially significant impacts related to land use have been identified. No mitigation is required.

Mineral Resources. The activities described in this variance would not have a significant effect on mineral and energy resources and would not result in the loss of the availability of the resources because none occur in the project area. No mitigation is required.

Noise. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size will not result in any greater noise impacts than those described in the MND. No new mitigation has been identified.

Population and Housing. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND. No mitigation is required.

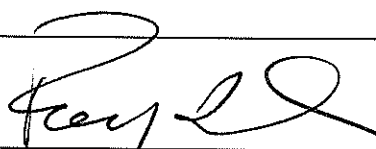
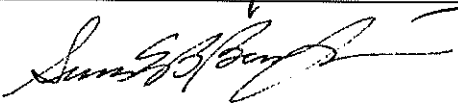
Public Services. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts on public services than were discussed in the MND. No mitigation is required.

Recreation. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in recreation impacts. No mitigation is required.

Transportation/Traffic. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not result in any new or greater impacts than were previously described in the MND for local transportation and traffic. No new mitigation has been identified.

Utilities and Service Systems. The access road realignment and reduction in the well pad size would not require an expansion or improvement in utilities or service systems, including wastewater and water supply treatment or delivery. No mitigation is required.

Site Conditions/Comments: As described previously, the Southam #2 site is in agricultural production (orchard).

Approvals	Date	Name (print)	Signature	Comments
CPUC Compliance Mgr				
Central Valley Construction Manager	7/30/12	RAY SCHNEGELSBERG		
Central Valley Environmental Manager	8/1/12	Susan Bushnell Bergfalk		None

Prepared by: Susan Bushnell Bergfalk, Environmental
Manager, ICF International

Date: August 1, 2012