Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Engelman, Alexa
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:48 AM
To: Habel, Rob@DOC <Rob.Habel@conservation.ca.gov>
Cc: Craig, Caryn@DOC <Caryn.Craig@conservation.ca.gov>; Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>; Dermer, Michele <Dermer.Michele@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Records Request

Rob:

As I mentioned during the meeting last week, we received a FOIA request that included requests for documents related to aquifer exemptions and injection in the Tulare aquifer in the Elk Hills field. We have completed our response to that request and the responsive documents have been posted in FOIA online: https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/view/request?objectId=090004d2806bac42. If the link doesn't work, the FOIA request was *EPA-R9-2015-006449.*

As you stated, a proposed aquifer exemption would need to come through EPA for approval, and EPA does not have record of an aquifer exemption for the Tulare formation in the Elk Hills field.

Best,

Alexa

From: Habel, Rob@DOC [mailto:Rob.Habel@conservation.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:17 AM
To: Engelman, Alexa <ENGELMAN.ALEXA@EPA.GOV>
Cc: Craig, Caryn@DOC <Caryn.Craig@conservation.ca.gov>
Subject: Records Request

Alexa:

It is my understanding that EPA has had some inquiries regarding the purported Tulare aquifer exemption in Elk Hills. Would it be possible to get a copy of the records you found in regards to that request? We have been asked the same questions and we cannot find any supporting data that would indicate that the Tulare aquifer has been exempted. We did hear something recently where operators believe that the aquifer was exempted when the federal government (DOE) sold the field. I would assume that any aquifer exemption would have needed to go through the EPA. Any help on this would be most appreciated.

Thanks,

Robert S. Habel, Special Assistant

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