

# **Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project Discussion Draft MRV Plan**

Presentation by Occidental Elk Hills, Inc. at California  
Energy Commission Staff Workshop for  
HYDROGEN ENERGY CALIFORNIA (08-AFC-8)  
August 17, 2010  
Sacramento, California

# Presentation Overview

- Background
  - Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project
  - MRV Plan Development
- Review of the MRV Plan
- Next Steps

# History of Elk Hills

- One of largest oil fields in the U.S., over 75 square miles
- In operation for more than 100 years
- One of the most fully characterized oil fields in the U.S.
- Current and historic EOR operations include injection of brine water, nitrogen gas, methane and polymers

# Oxy's CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Experience

- Global leader in applying EOR techniques
- Industry leader in CO<sub>2</sub> EOR
  - over 25 active CO<sub>2</sub> flood projects
  - injecting ~ 28 million tonnes per year
- Oxy follows time tested protocols to:
  - Ensure worker safety
  - Optimize use of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Comply with legal standards

# MRV Plan Context

- Plan is tailored for the HECA AFC
  - OEHI would use CO<sub>2</sub> captured from HECA for EOR, resulting in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration
  - As a related project, CEC must evaluate OEHI CO<sub>2</sub> EOR potential environmental impacts along with HECA impacts
  - MRV plan intended to measure and verify amounts of HECA CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered by OEHI CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project
- Discussion draft only – still under evaluation by external peer reviewers and AFC stakeholders

# The Role of an MRV Plan

- Identify and assess risk of potential leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> to surface
- Monitor behavior of injected CO<sub>2</sub>
- Determine mass of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered
- Establish reporting framework
- Describe site closure and post-closure monitoring

# Oxy's MRV Plan Development

- Reviewing Institutional Models:
  - Proposed EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Subpart W and Subpart RR
  - Proposed EPA UIC Class VI rules and comments
  - Existing UIC Class II permit criteria
  - Existing California environmental requirements
- Consulting with:
  - Internal experts from multi-disciplines across Oxy
  - HECA
  - External experts from various environmental groups
  - CEC through AFC process

# Key Questions Addressed

- What does the OEHI CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project entail?
- Why is Elk Hills a good location for the Project?
- How do we know CO<sub>2</sub> will not leak?
- How will OEHI monitor the CO<sub>2</sub> used for EOR?
- How much CO<sub>2</sub> will be sequestered?
  
- Site closure and post-closure monitoring (still under development)



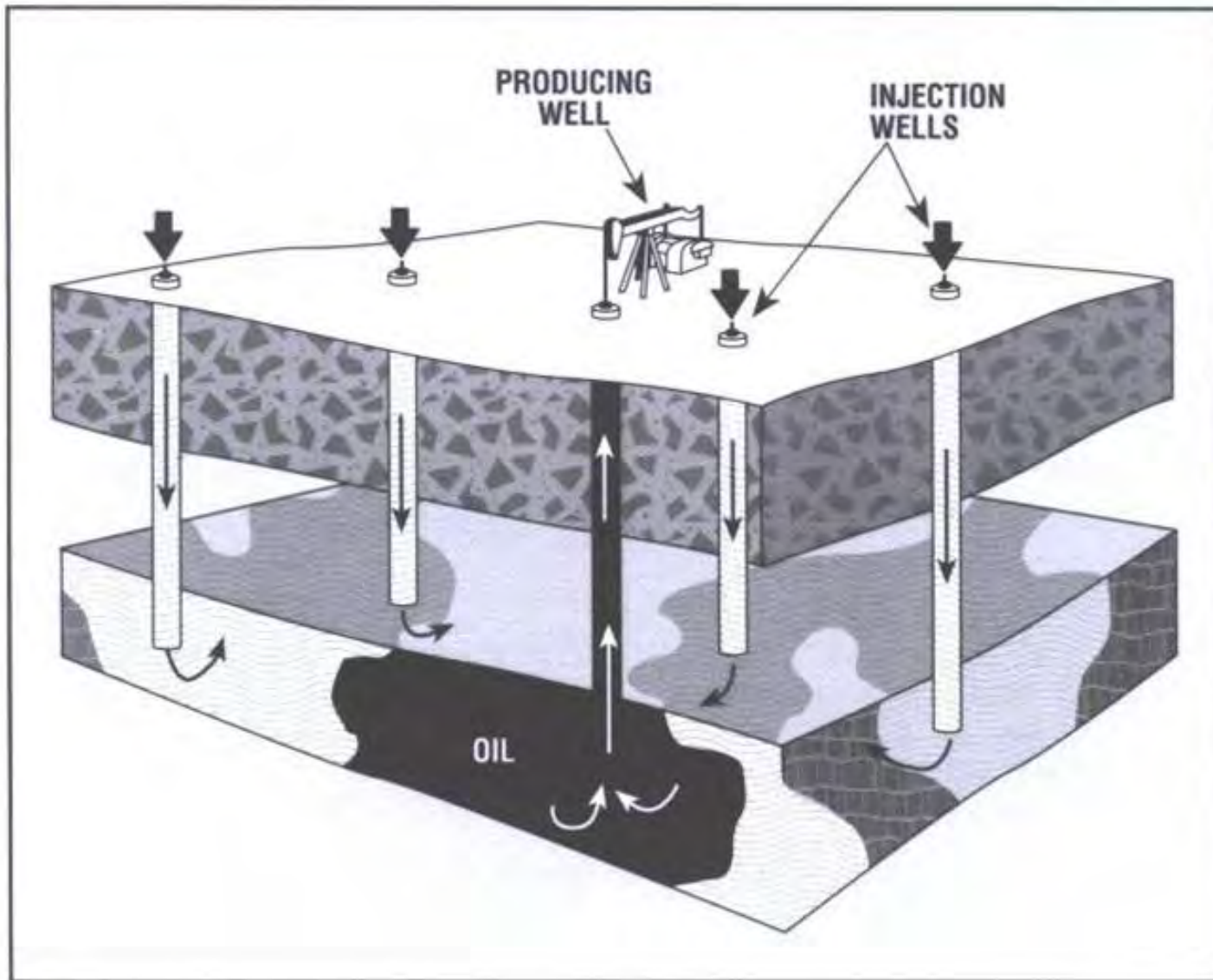
# Overview of the Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project MRV Plan

- Part 1 – Summary
- Part 2 – Detailed Project Description
- Part 3 – Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
- Part 4 – Monitoring: Quality Assurance / Quality Control

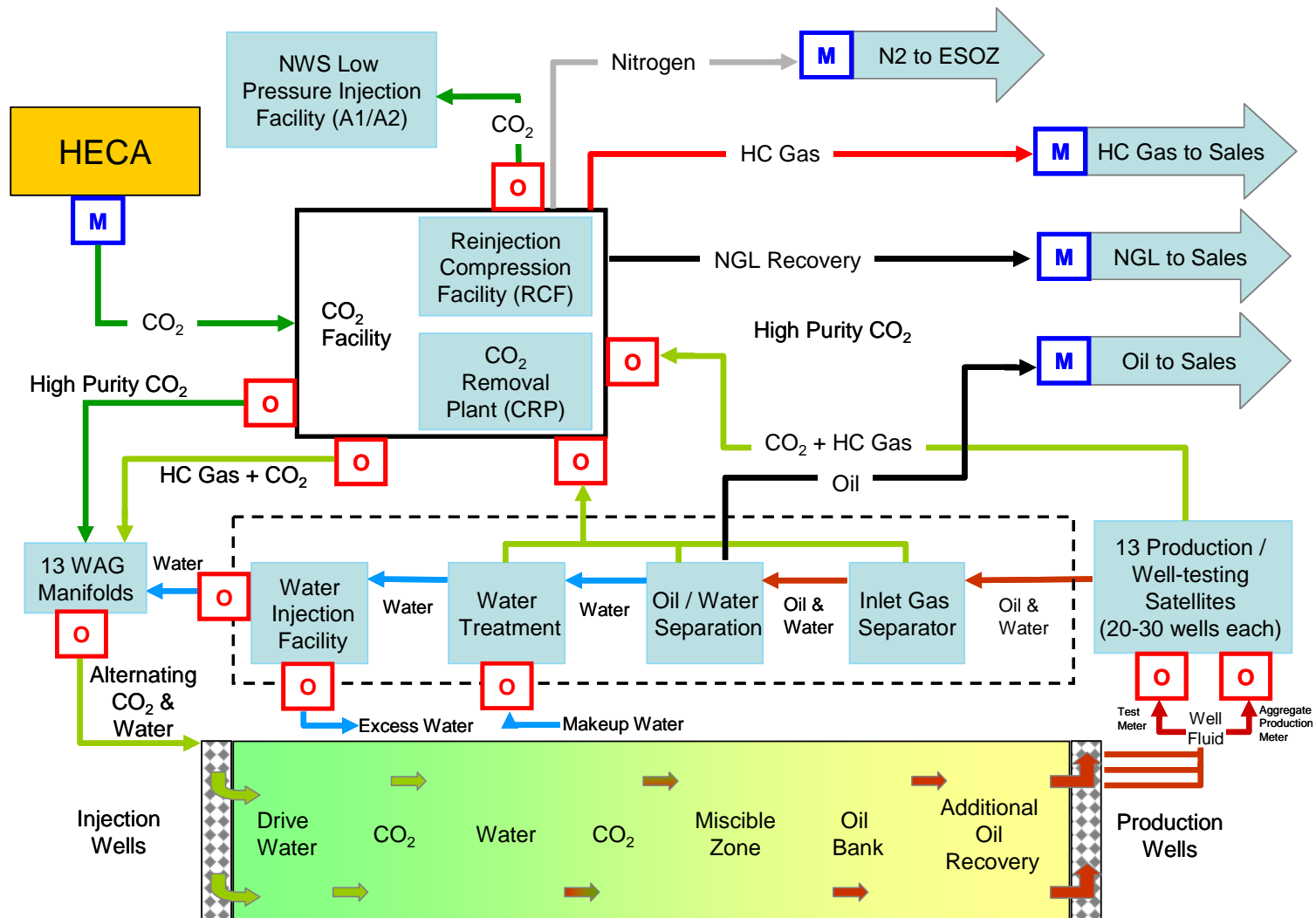
# First – The Acronyms

- CO<sub>2</sub> – carbon dioxide
- EOR – enhanced oil recovery
- HECA – Hydrogen Energy California
- OEHI – Occidental of Elk Hills, Inc.
- Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project – planned extension of OEHI's existing EOR operations using CO<sub>2</sub> from HECA

# The CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Process



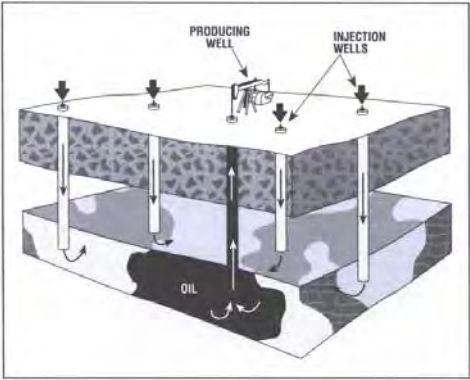
# The Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Process



**M** Custody Transfer Meter & CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer / Sampler

**O** Operations Meter for Total CO<sub>2</sub>, HC Gas, Water, Oil

# Field Flow Diagram



Oil, Wtr, Gas/CO<sub>2</sub>



Gas/CO<sub>2</sub>

Gas Sale

Gas/CO<sub>2</sub>

Liquids

Oil Sale

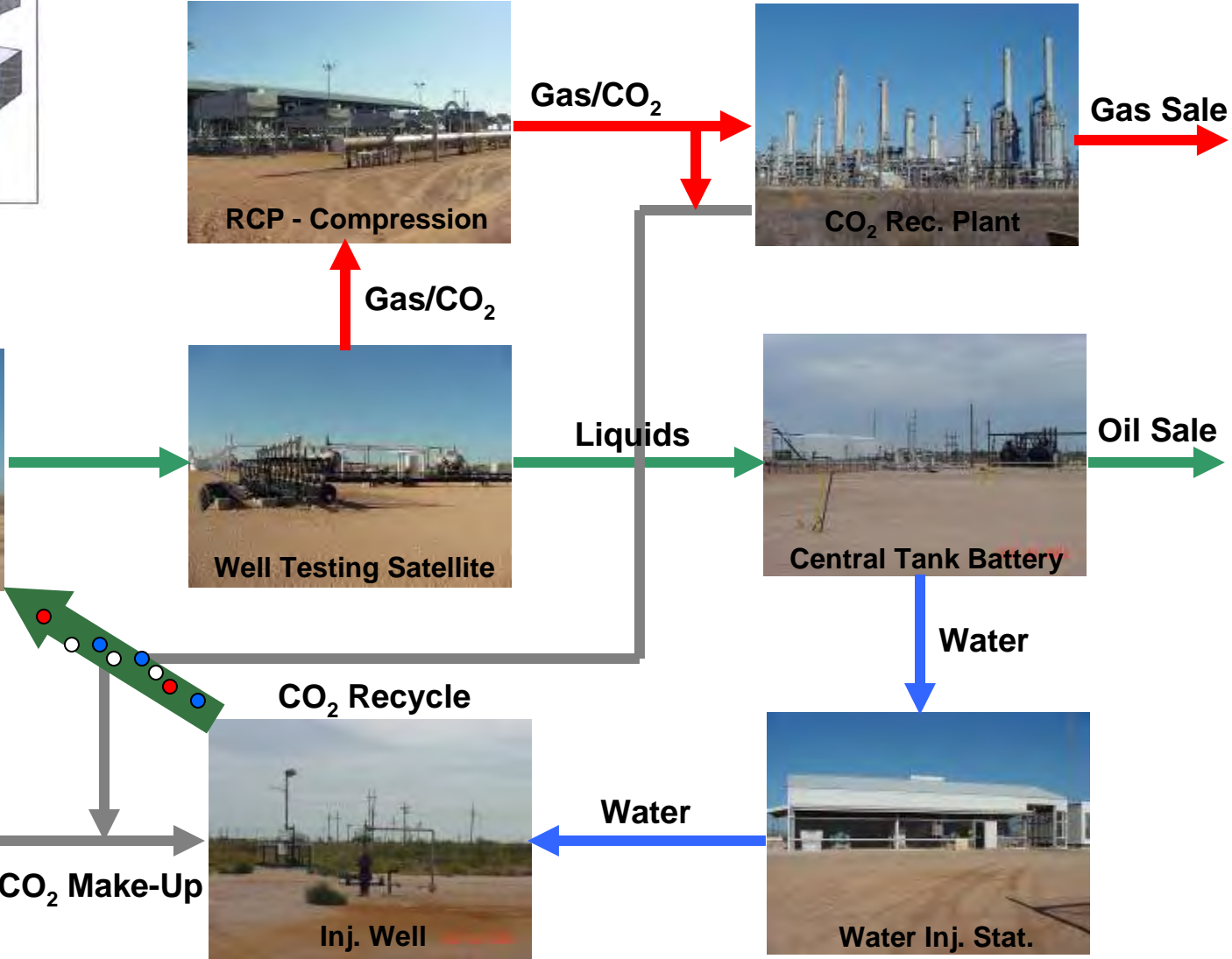
CO<sub>2</sub> Recycle

CO<sub>2</sub> Make-Up

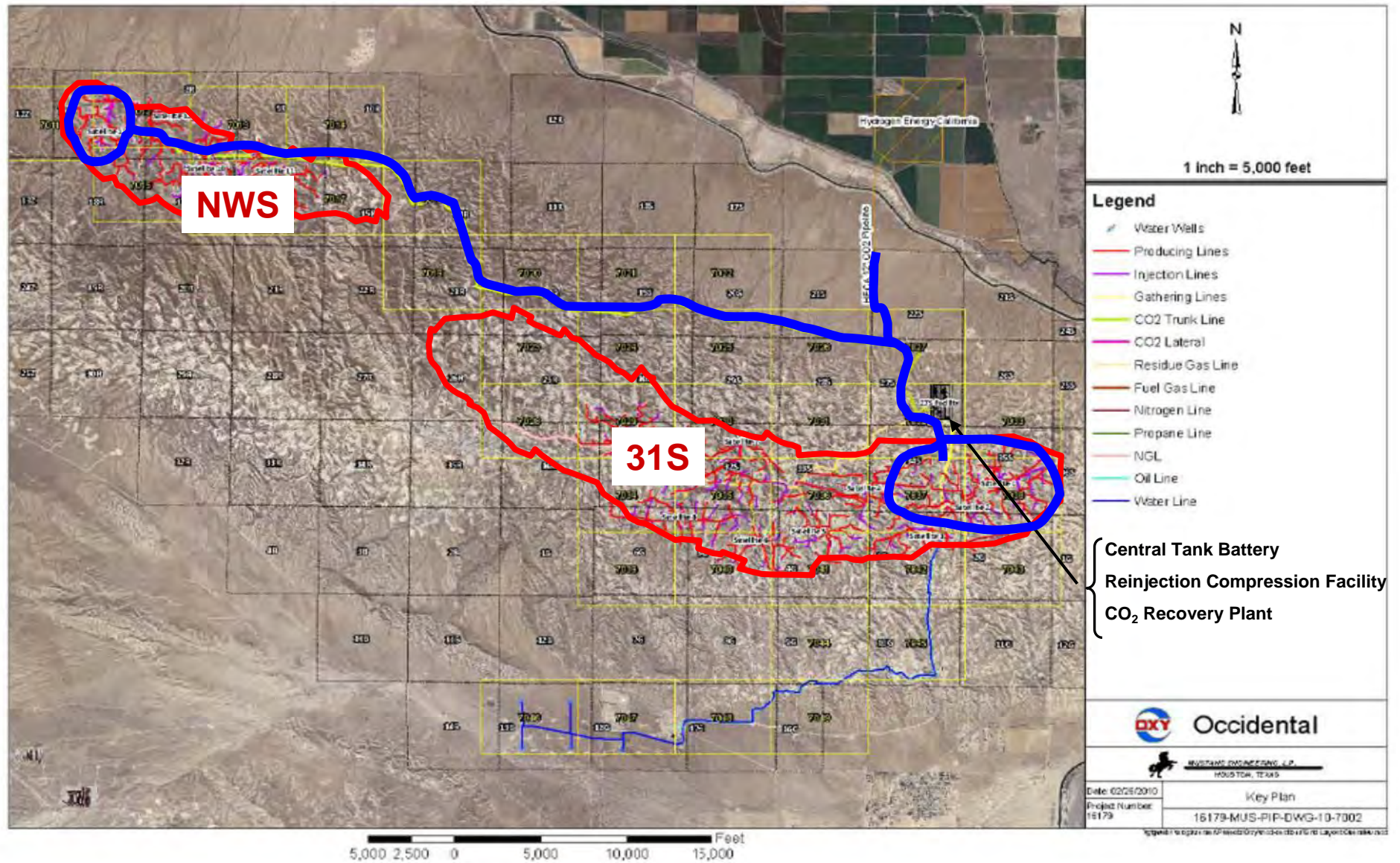
Water

Water

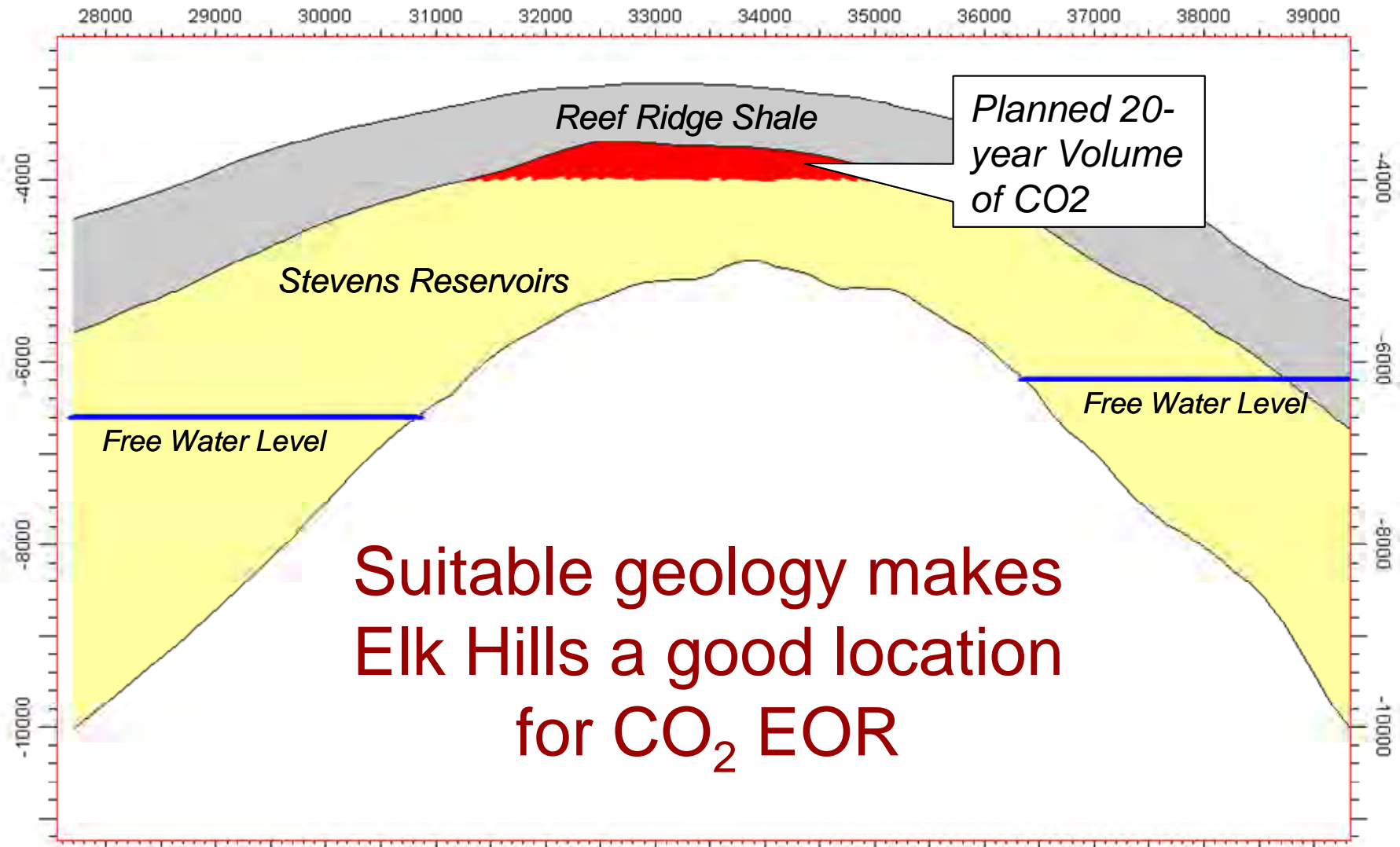
Water Inj. Stat.



# The Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project

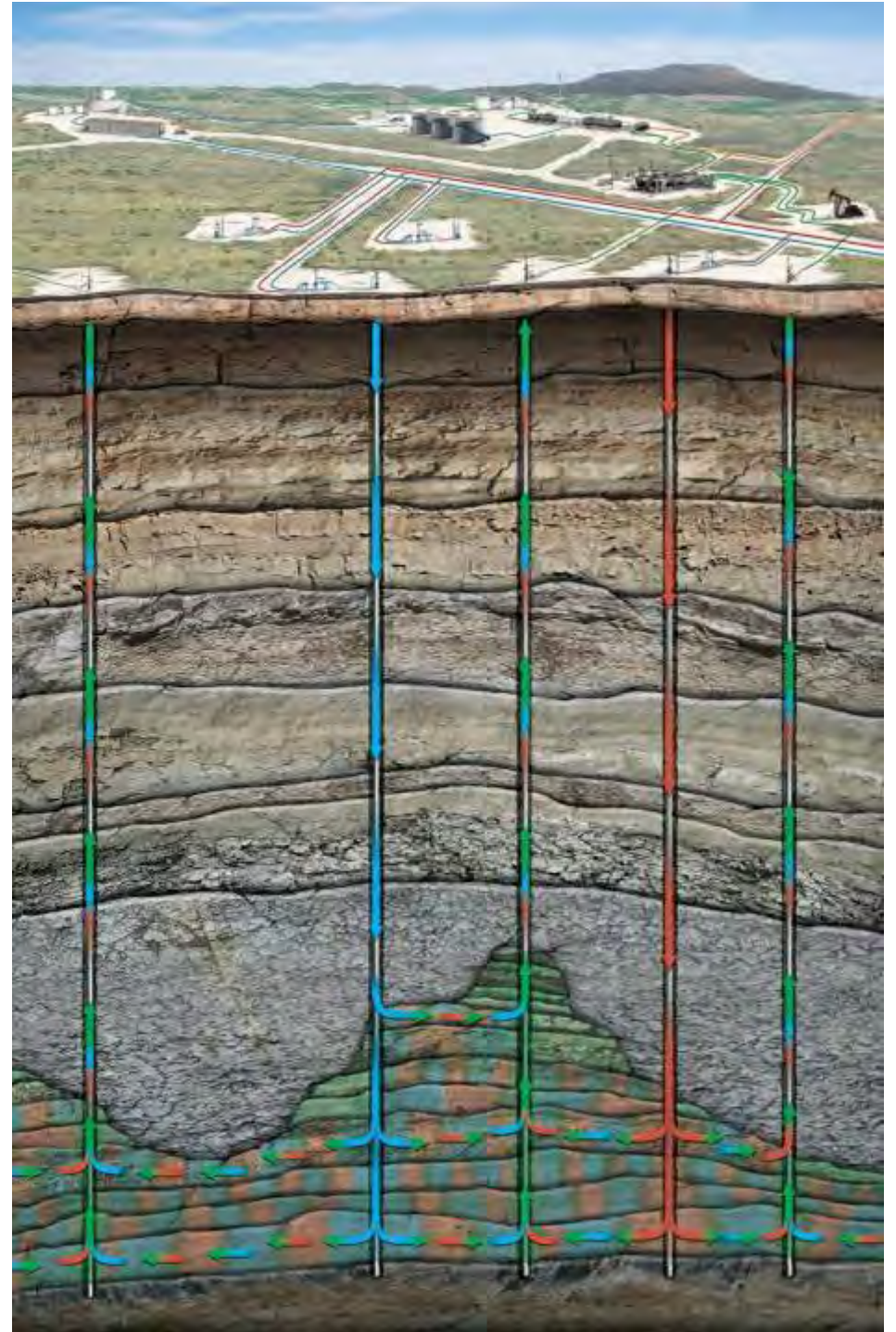


# Why is Elk Hills A Good Location?



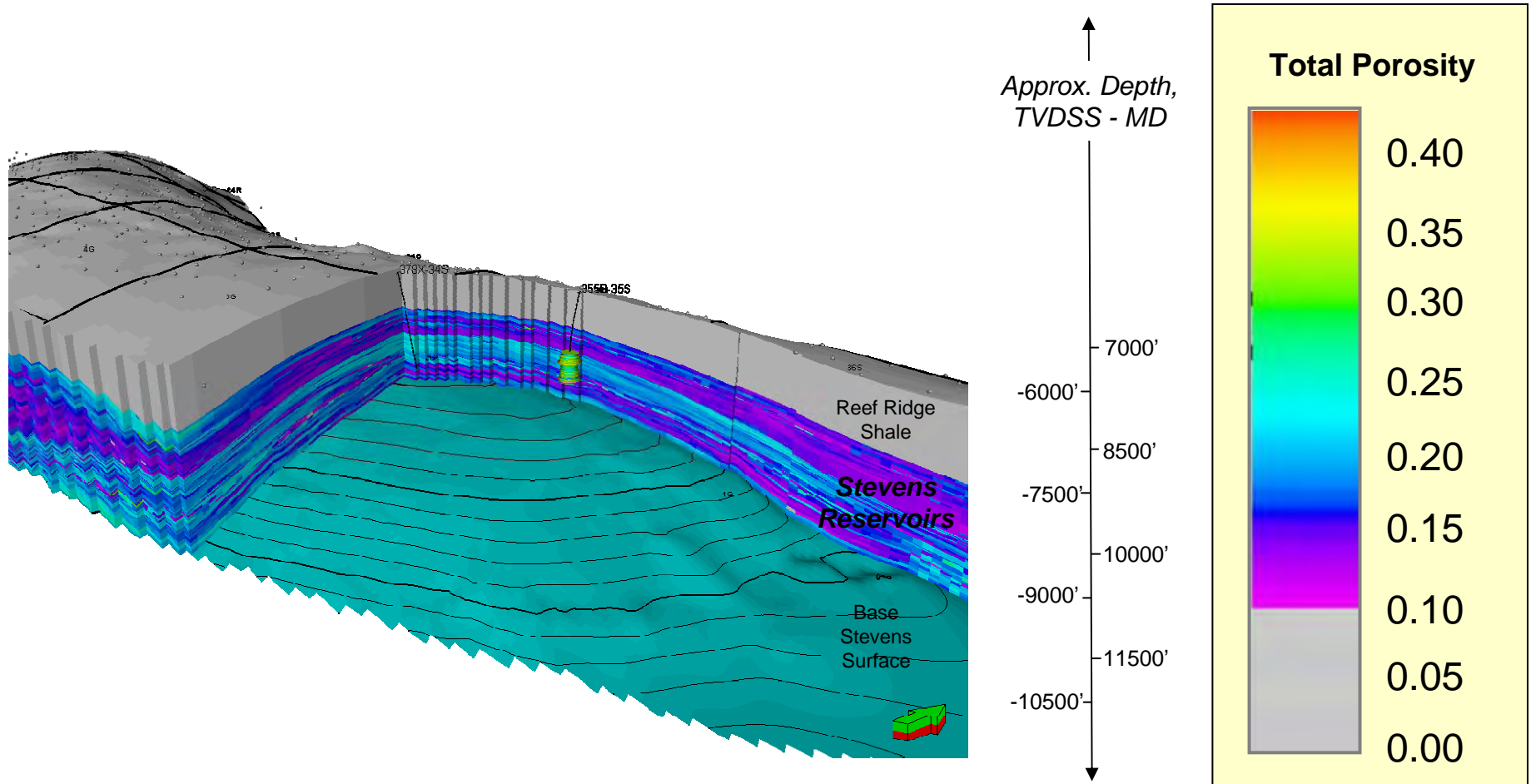
# Multiple Seals

- Elk Hills has a number of seals and production zones that have contained separate pools of oil and gas for millions of years





# Multiple Layers Within the Stevens Reservoirs



# How Do We Know That CO<sub>2</sub> Will Not Leak to the Surface?

- Assessed leakage pathways:
  - Faults & Fractures
  - Natural and Induced Seismic Activity
  - Existing Well Bores
  - Previous Operations
  - Pipeline & Surface Equipment
  - Overfill Through Lateral Spillpoints
  - Dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> into Formation Fluid
  - New Drilling
- OEHI has determined: No identified leakage pathways that would result in significant loss of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere

# Faults & Fractures

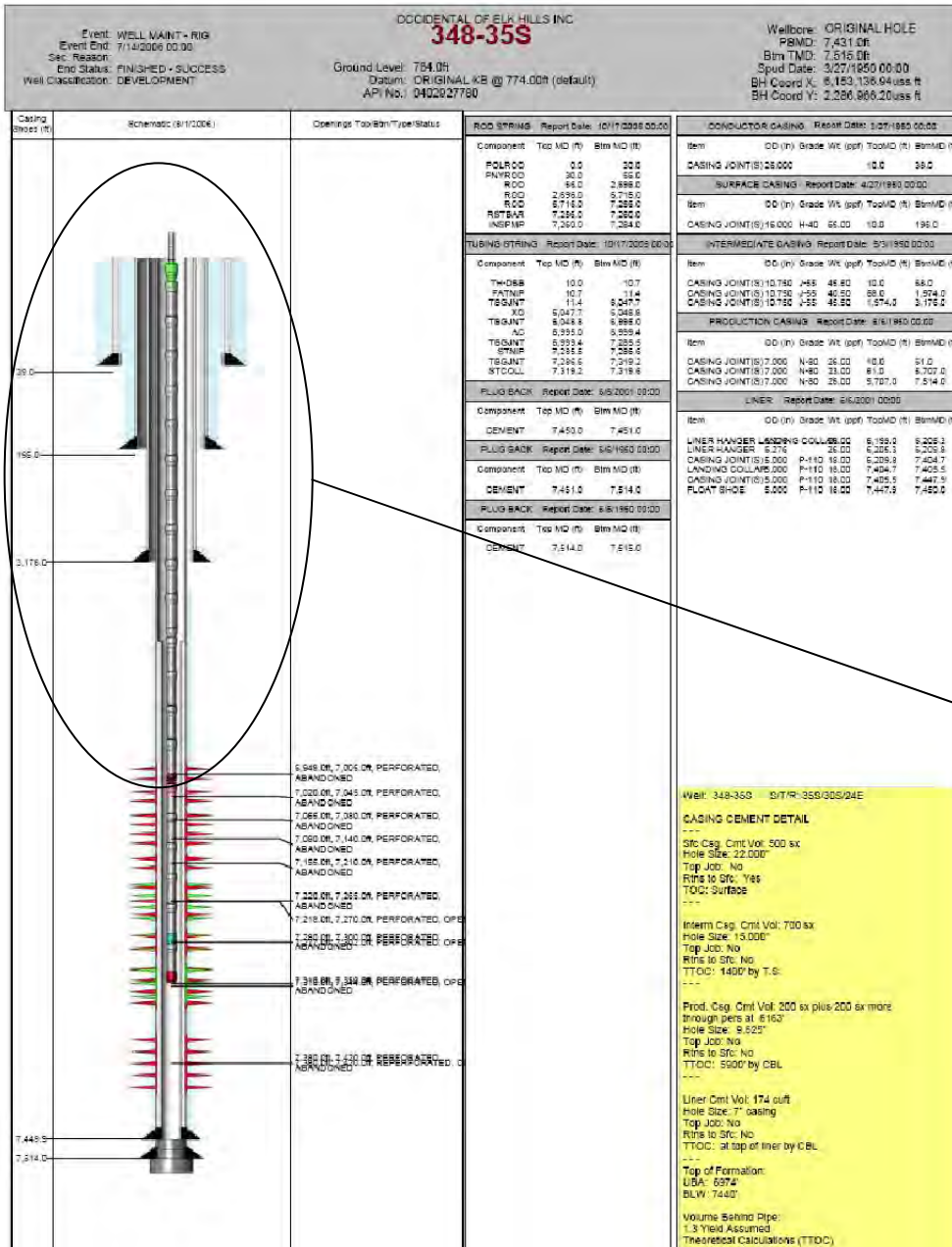
- No known transmissive faults or fractures that transect the Reef Ridge Shale interval
  - Based on 3-D imaging, and other production information, such as unique oil-water contacts, pressures, and temperatures of the Stevens and the overlying Shallow Oil Zone reservoirs
- Injection pressures unlikely to propagate a fracture through the Reef Ridge seal
  - There is a large difference between MMP and pressure that would compromise seal
  - Risk of overpressure can be fully mitigated by controlling injection pressure
  - Injection pressure is measured and OEHI control system can perform automatic shutdown

# Natural / Induced Seismic Activity

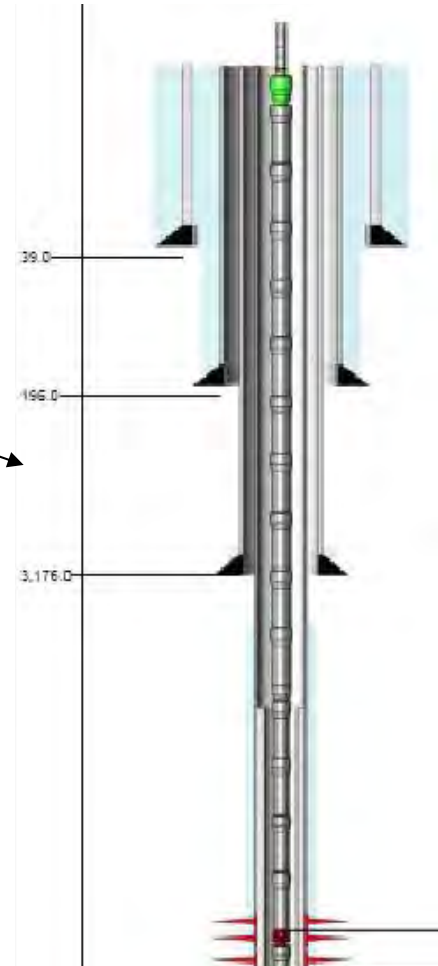
- Natural seismicity of magnitude 3 to 6 is not likely to impact field operations and is highly unlikely to lead to leakage of any injected CO<sub>2</sub> from the EHOF
  - Based on decades of historical data for earthquake effects on wells in oil and gas operations in Southern California
  - Based on the geological setting of the EHOF, which is in relatively soft and shallow sediments (~ 5,000 feet below ground surface)
- Induced seismicity risk is very low
  - Terralog study shows order of magnitude smaller than natural seismicity

# Existing Well Bores

- Comprehensive database of all wells due to unique ownership history
- OEHI demonstrated that existing well bores do not pose a threat of leakage from existing production operations
  - Permitting gas and water injection wells for the past 10 years
- OEHI continues to maintain all well bores in a manner that prevents creation of a leakage pathway from the targeted portions of the Stevens reservoirs to overlying intervals
  - Mechanical-integrity testing of injection wells, proper construction of production wells, and demonstration of well integrity at closure



# Well Integrity



# Previous Operations

- Reef Ridge provides barrier between Shallow Oil Zone and Steven reservoirs
  - Vertical separation of 1400 feet
  - Demonstrated presence of a measured pressure differential between SOZ and Stevens reservoirs
  - No evidence of fluids movement
  - Extensive wellbore database

# Pipeline & Surface Equipment

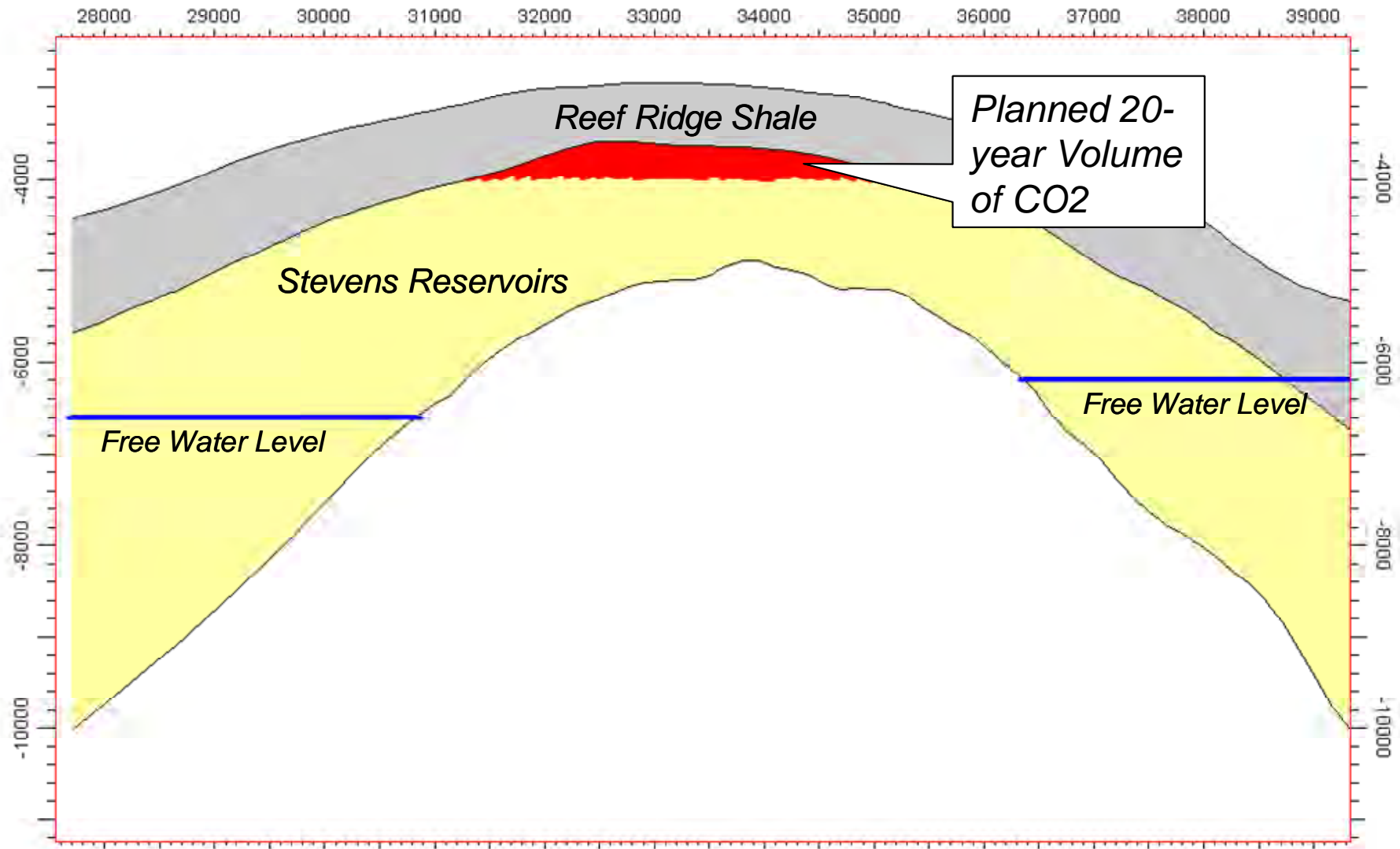
- The facilities and pipelines will utilize materials of construction and control processes and that are common to new CO<sub>2</sub> EOR projects in the oil and gas industry
- Operating and maintenance practices will follow industry requirements
- The unique and centralized automation and control system currently in use at the Elk Hills Unit will facilitate excellent operational control and ensure the safety and reliability of the facilities



# Overflow Through Lateral Spillpoints

- There are no reasonable injection scenarios that would lead to overflowing the reservoir with CO<sub>2</sub> to cause a horizontal spillover
  - The oil bearing strata – which represent the target injection zones – are above the free-water levels
  - The lateral spillpoints in the 31S and NWS structures lie below the free-water level
  - The Project will produce roughly the same volume of fluids as it injects, creating additional voidage
  - The volume of CO<sub>2</sub> to be injected over the 20-year life of the Oxy CO<sub>2</sub> EOR Project is only ~ 3% of the reservoir pore volume

# Management of Spillpoints



# Dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> into Formation Fluid

- OEHI believes this is not a likely pathway for leakage from the Stevens
  - Overfill through lateral spillpoints is not a reasonable scenario
  - Evidence from past production shows no influx of formation fluid and the injection volume is not expected to be sufficient enough to induce an outward flow of formation fluids past these spillpoints

# New Drilling

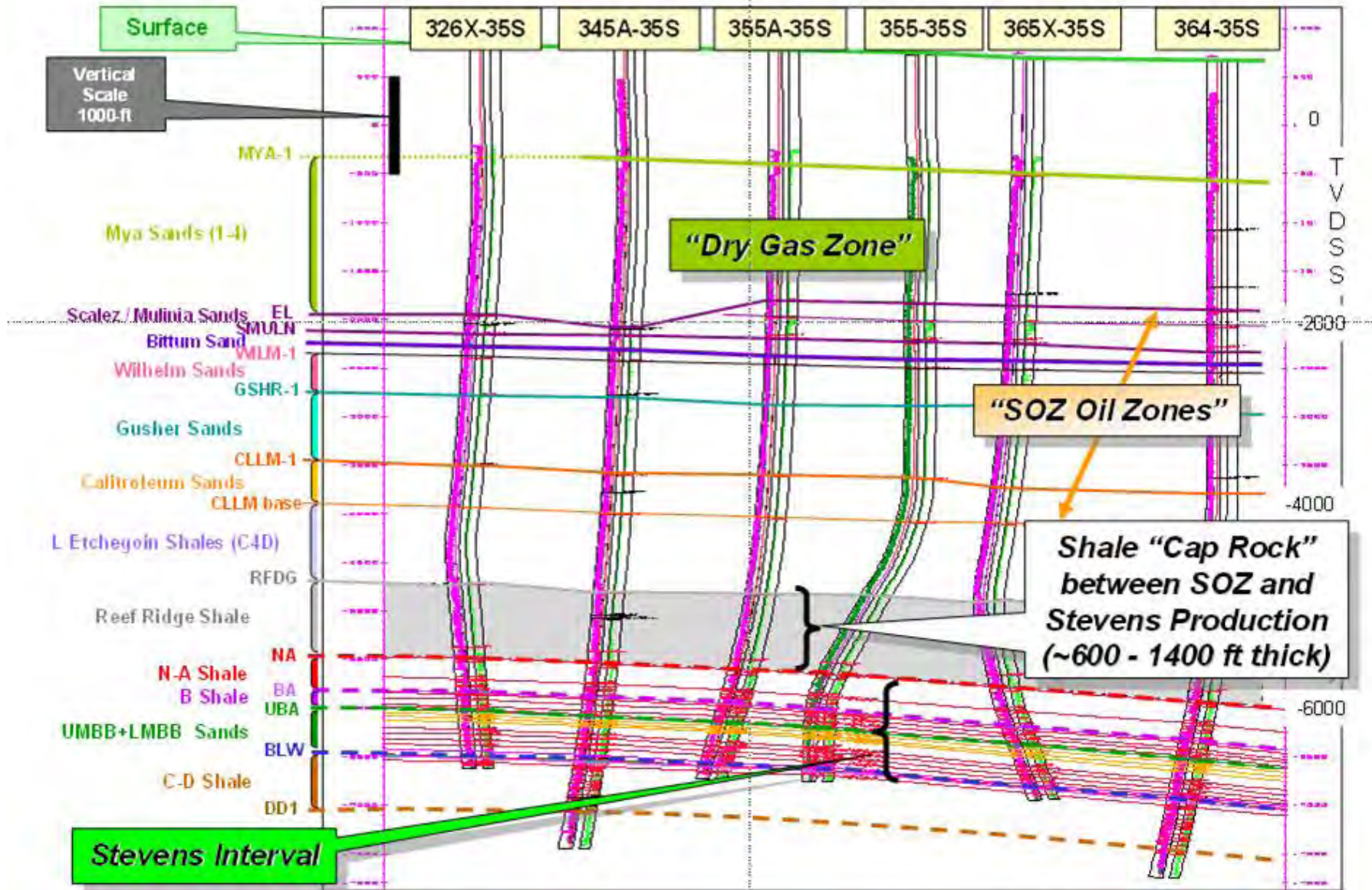
- Several DOGGR regulations and guidelines specifically address zonal isolation during well construction
- These regulations and guidelines are intended to ensure that wellbores pose no significant risk of leakage

# Monitoring Leakage Pathways

1. Use of monitoring wells
2. Visual inspection of facilities and wellsites
3. Monitoring of the CO<sub>2</sub> injection

# Monitoring Above the Seal

## Structural Dip Section; Surface to TD



# Visual Inspection

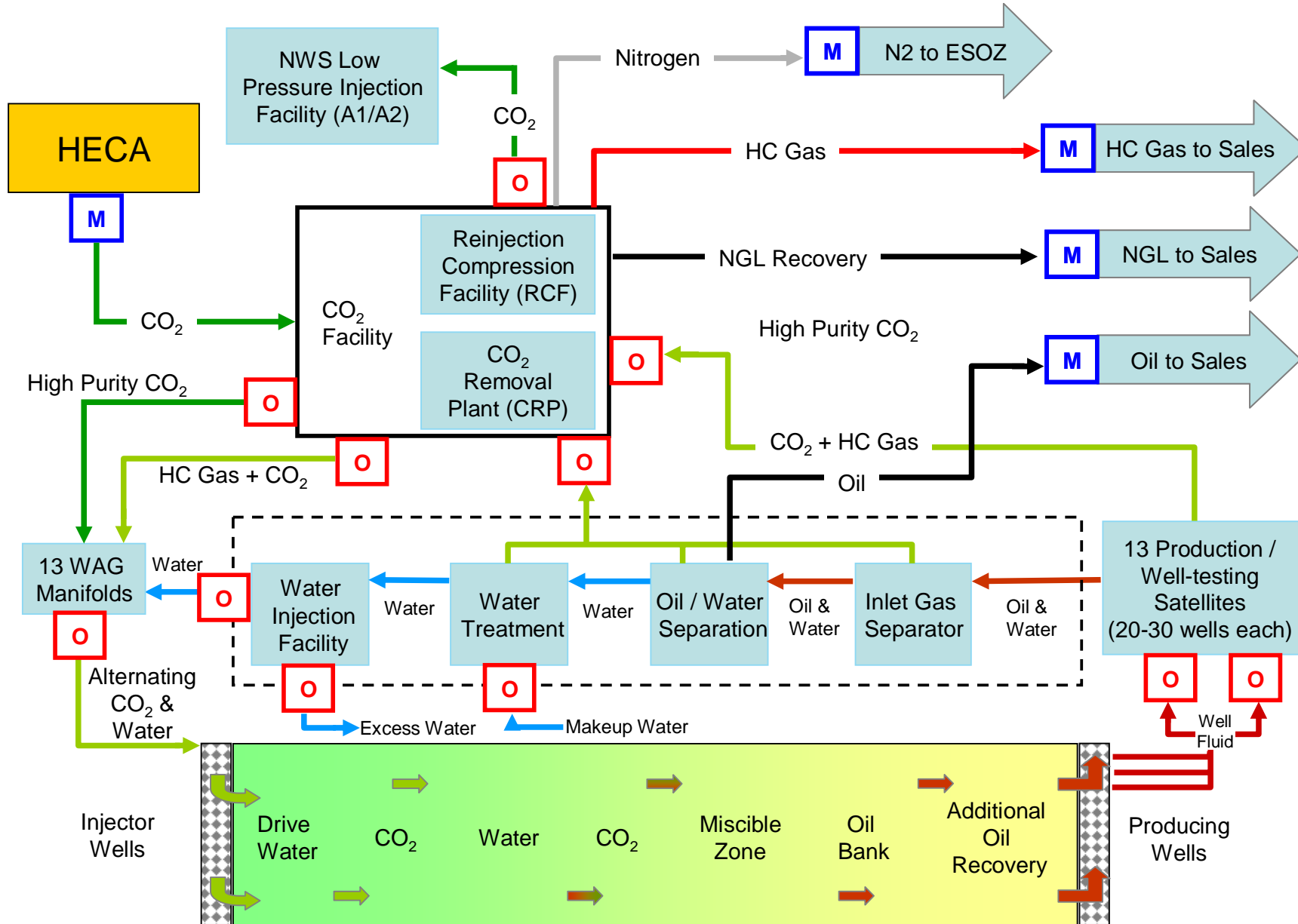
- When CO<sub>2</sub> leaks it decompresses
  - highly audible
  - rapid cooling that forms visible vapor or ice
- The oil fields being used for this project are contained in relatively small areas
- OEHI teams perform daily facility inspections and weekly well-site inspections

# Monitoring the CO<sub>2</sub> Injection Operations

- Full-field simulation model
  - Storage capacity
  - Pressures
  - CO<sub>2</sub> behavior
- Injection and performance plan
  - Projection of rate and volume of CO<sub>2</sub> injection
- Performance tracking
  - Variances indicate opportunities to enhance model or improve performance
  - If variance indicates migration from the Stevens reservoirs, OEHI will report it promptly



# OEHI's Monitoring System



**M** Custody Transfer Meter & CO<sub>2</sub> Analyzer / Sampler

**O** Operations Meter for Total CO<sub>2</sub>, HC Gas, Water, Oil

# Measuring Incidental and Operational CO<sub>2</sub> Losses

- OEHI currently reports measured and estimated incidental and operational emissions under air quality permits
  - Emissions sources include: valves, connectors, flanges, open-ended lines, compressor equipment, vents, pumps, meters, and other potential fugitive sources
- OEHI plans to follow similar procedures during CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and anticipates being consistent with proposed US EPA GHG Reporting Rule (and ARB conformed rule)
  - Procedures in place to estimate incidental and operational CO<sub>2</sub> losses

# How Much CO<sub>2</sub> Will Be Sequestered Through EOR?

Material Mass Balance Equation:

CO<sub>2</sub> transferred to OEHI

- CO<sub>2</sub> measured in products moved offsite
  - CO<sub>2</sub> emitted through leakage (if any)
  - Incidental and operational losses of CO<sub>2</sub>
- 

= CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestered

# Other Items in the MRV Plan

- Data Handling
- Missing Data Procedures
- Reporting and Recordkeeping
- Monitoring System Maintenance
- MRV Plan Adjustments

# Closure Considerations

- Elk Hills is an active field that will be producing oil and gas for more than 20 years from startup of the HECA project
- OEHI will comply with applicable regulatory requirements for closing and plugging wells and conducting monitoring
- OEHI is considering appropriate approaches to long-term monitoring given the specific characteristics of the site, operations, and the need to demonstrate sequestration

# Next Steps

- Complete closure discussion
- Obtain and address feedback
- Submit MRV Plan