

# Kern Front Well Plugging and Sealing Virtual Community Meeting

July 9, 2025



Funded through a grant provided by the California Workforce Development Board in cooperation with the California Geologic Energy Management Division ("CalGEM").

# Agenda

Introductions – CLWS Team

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Overview of Idle and Orphan Wells

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High Road Training Partnership

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Well Plugging and Sealing Work

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Planned Activities

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Question and Answer

# Ground Rules

Use the Chat feature to ask questions.

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Use the “Raise Your Hand” feature if you would like to be unmuted.

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Keep Questions and Comments relevant to the topic.

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Treat all attendees and viewpoints with dignity and respect.

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# Defining Idle and Orphan Wells

## What is an Idle Well?

In California, an idle well is an oil and gas well that has not been used for two years or more and has not yet been properly plugged and abandoned (sealed and closed)

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## What are Orphan Wells?

“Orphan Wells” are idle wells that don’t have an operator capable of abandoning and remediating the well. Orphan wells present special environmental and community health hazards and are at risk of leaking methane, the second-largest contributor to climate change.



# California's Idle and Orphan Wells



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**35,000**

approximate number of  
Idle wells in California

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**5,000**

orphaned, deserted or  
potentially deserted wells

Source: California Department of Conservation







# Our High Road Training Partnership

Bringing Labor and Management Together to  
Support High Road Jobs, Public Health and  
the Climate

# Labor and Management



California  
Legacy Well  
Services



Operating  
Engineers  
Training Trust  
and  
IUOE Local 12



Laborers  
LiUNA Local 220



Baker & Welsh  
[Consultants supporting  
the partnership]



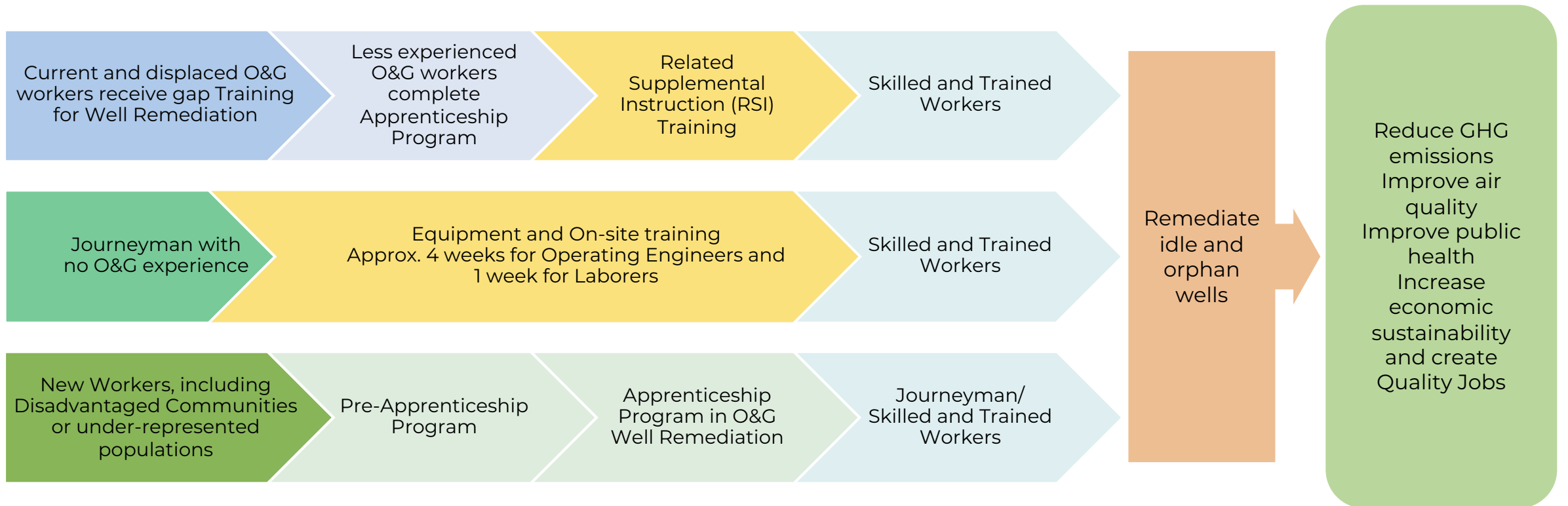


# Putting it Together

Labor	Management	State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide skilled and trained workforce for signatory contractors</li><li>• Offer training programs for well abandonment</li><li>• Recruit displaced oil and gas workers and from disadvantaged communities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner with strategic stakeholders</li><li>• Collaborate with labor to develop gap training programs</li><li>• Train and certify displaced oil &amp; gas workers, existing journeymen and members of disadvantaged communities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fund projects to abandon orphan wells</li><li>• Support training programs and public outreach efforts</li></ul>
Commitment to Safety		



# Well Plugging and Abandonment Training Pathways



# Well Abandonment and Remediation



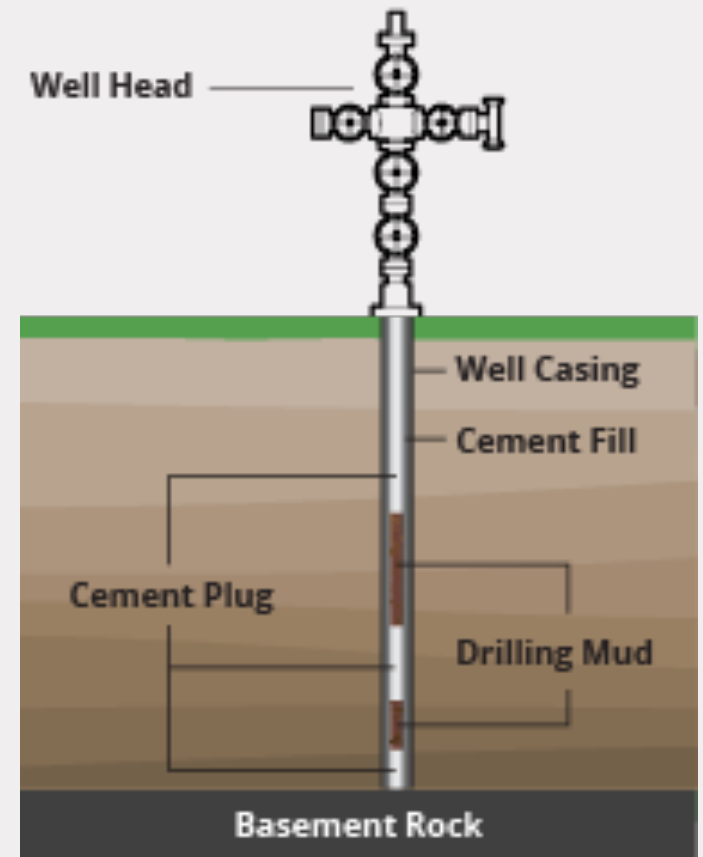
# Well Abandonment and Remediation

## What is Well Abandonment?

The process to permanently seal, or “plug,” a well that is no longer used to produce oil or gas.

## What is Remediation?

The process for decommissioning and removing any other surface equipment used for oil and gas production, addressing contamination and restoring the area for future uses.

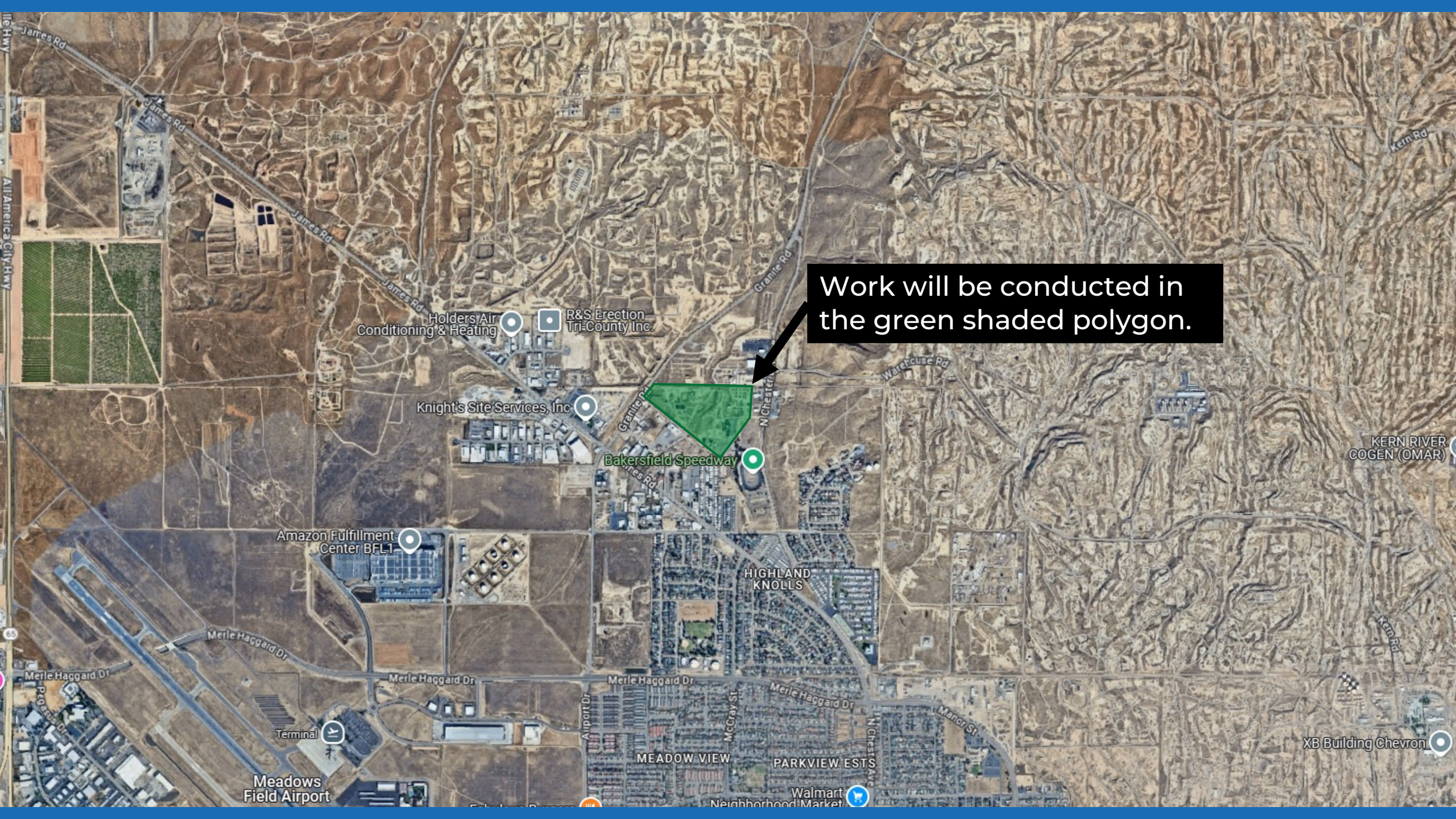




# Upcoming Orphan Well Abandonment Activities in the Kern Front Area

- Safe plugging and abandonment of 19 inactive oil wells in the Kern Front Area, northeast of the intersection of Granite Road and James Road in Oildale, Calif.
- Work will occur over the coming months.
- Targeted completion is by November 24, 2025.





Work will be conducted in the green shaded polygon.



# Summary of Planned Activities

## 1. Workover Rig Deployment

- Crews of 3–5 personnel will operate workover rigs at each well location to perform abandonment activities in accordance with state regulations.

## 2. Standard Working Hours

- Operations will take place during daylight hours, Monday through Friday. No overnight or weekend work is currently planned.

## 3. Increased Traffic from Support Vehicles

- Daily activity will include vacuum trucks, wireline units, cementing crews, and tool delivery vehicles entering and exiting the area.



# Summary of Planned Activities

## 4. Vacuum Truck Operations for Fluid Management

- Trucks will be used to remove and transport fluids from each well to approved disposal facilities.

## 5. Cementing Operations to Seal Wells

- Cementing units will be mobilized to place cement in wellbores to properly isolate underground zones and ensure permanent well closure.

## 6. Wireline Services and Isolation Charges

- Wireline trucks will run tools and deploy controlled detonation charges underground to assist with wellbore isolation and cement placement. All activities are conducted with appropriate safety precautions.

# Summary of Planned Activities

## 7. Safety and Environmental Oversight

- All work will comply with CalGEM guidelines and local and state regulations.

## 8. Project Completion Timeline

- The goal is to complete all 19 well abandonments by **November 24, 2025**, pending field conditions and agency coordination.

# Question + Answer

Learn more at [wellabandonment.org](http://wellabandonment.org)

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