



LOS ANGELES BASIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

January 2023 Newsletter

The upcoming Meeting is held jointly with the Los Angeles Association for Professional Landmen:

Thursday, January 26th, 11:30 start

Signal Hill Petroleum, 2633 Cherry Ave., Signal Hill, Conference Room,
2nd floor

The LABGS and the LAAPL extend their sincere appreciation to Brady Barto and SHP for their continued support!

**The Exploration and Development History of the Montebello Oil Field:
triumphs, tribulations, and challenges in an urban oil field**

Daniel C. Steward

VP Beta Operations, Amplify Energy, President of LABGS

Abstract

The La Merced Hills yielded the Montebello oil field in February 1917 as the 9th commercial discovery in the Los Angeles basin (LAB). The Standard Oil Co. of California's "Baldwin" #1 was the discovery well on what was soon recognized as the Montebello anticline - partially understood from early surface geology mapping in the area. Standard's Baldwin #1 was drilled with cable tools to a total depth of 2,395' and produced "on beam" at an initial rate 350 barrels of oil per day (BOPD). After lowering the production string slightly, production increased to 550 BOPD. By 1920 Montebello was producing 1,000,000 barrels/month, representing 1/8 of California's production. The cumulative oil production from Montebello, as of 2009, was 205 million barrels.

Montebello is noteworthy for a variety of reasons: it was the first LAB field discovered through the application of "scientific geological study", Montebello was considered a model of shallow water shut off (WSO) control and coordination among competing operators; the coordination of the WSO effort was orchestrated by the California State Mining Bureau, the forerunner agency to CalGEM (AKA DOG & DOGGR), which greatly rationalized the Bureau's role in promoting a range of best practices across the California oil and gas fields which assisted in maximizing production and minimizing waste in both capital and oil and gas.

Like many of the LAB's early discoveries, Montebello's appraisal interval elapsed over 21 years during which 13 distinct productive zones were delineated with multiple

discreet oil sands and two sub-areas: West and East Montebello. West Montebello is unique in that it was developed in pell-mell fashion on townlot spacing with some initial production rates having reached 2,000 BOPD of light oil. The deepest interval in West Montebello, the “8th Zone” within the upper Miocene Puente Fm., was used as a gas storage reservoir and operated by Southern California Gas Company beginning in 1975. Montebello remains an active field with prominent “hiding in plain sight” facilities, numerous active wells, and even more numerous abandoned wells throughout the now-urbanized landscape covering the field.

Speaker’s Biography

Daniel “Dan” C. Steward, a native of Taft, California, and serves as Vice President of Beta Operations at Amplify Energy Corp., responsible for the operation of the offshore Beta field in San Pedro Bay, based in Long Beach. From early 2018 to August of 2019 Dan served as CEO and Co-Founder of start-up Iron Horse Energy, LLC, an acquisition vehicle for mature oil-producing assets in the U.S. onshore. From 1996 to 2017, Dan held various geoscience and exploration roles of increasing responsibility with Chevron, Noble Energy, Lukoil International Upstream West, and Total E&P, spanning the deep-water Gulf of Mexico (US & Mexico areas), the west African continental margin, deep-water Black Sea, the Barents Sea, and the San Joaquin basin in Kern County, CA. Dan holds an AA degree from Taft Community College, a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Geology from California State University, Bakersfield and a Master of Business Administration from Rice University.

Luncheon Logistics

Lunch and Talk (pre-registered)	\$25.00
Retired:	\$20.00
Student:	\$10.00
Walk-ins:	\$35.00

Payment for lunch in cash or check only

Reservations are required by noon, Monday, January 23rd at labgs.org/meeting_info.html. Alternatively, contact Joseph Landeros at (626) 497-1710 or landerosjd@gmail.com.
Location: [Signal Hill Petroleum, 2633 Cherry Ave.](#), Signal Hill, 2nd floor conference room.

Announcements

Leadership Change

The LABGS would like to thank past President Scott Prior for 4 years of diligent service and leadership and Chris Smart for his work in the VP and Programs position. Thank you both for your volunteerism and dedication to the Society!

Dan Steward assumed the President’s position following the November meeting. Additionally, Dr. Rick Behl has volunteered for the VP and Programs position, thank you Rick! The remaining board members will continue in their respective capacities.

We are actively planning for monthly talks and lunches, beginning to brainstorm field trip ideas, and will be actively reaching out to educators to see how we may be of assistance within the earth science realms.

If at all possible, we hope to see you at the talk on the 26th!

“I tell people that I’m not retiring, I’m just moving my files to a different location.”

- Charles “Gil” Mull (1935 – 2021)

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