

Firms hope for more oil from Coalinga-area field

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Companies from Australia and Texas hope to wring a few more barrels of oil from a mostly tapped-out oilfield near Coalinga.

Solimar Energy LLC, a subsidiary of Australia's Solimar Energy Limited, and Blast Energy Services of Houston are spending an estimated \$2.3 million to drill a new well in the Gujarral Hills Field. The well is targeting four sandstone layers between 7,000 and 10,500 feet below the surface. Drilling may reach the first layer within a week and reach the final depth within a month.

Since it was discovered in 1948, the Gujarral Hills oilfield has yielded more than 50 million barrels of light oil and some natural gas, Blast Energy reported. The field is largely abandoned now, but Solimar is exploring a new area of the field with hopes of pumping 400 barrels of oil per day from the new well.