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**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: March 22, 2024

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and
Natural Resources Department
Attn: Keith Alvidrez
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-5015; AlvidrezK@kerncounty.com

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SSREIR) (SCH# 2013081079) for Revisions to Title 19 – Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2024) focused on oil and gas local permitting (PP13280).

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of interested parties as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to an agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. When considering another permit or other approvals for the proposed project, an agency may need to use the Draft SSREIR prepared by our Department.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **April 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above or to OG-SSREIRComments@kerncounty.com. A Scoping Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address listed above.

PROJECT TITLE: Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SSREIR) for Revisions to Title 19 – Kern County Zoning Ordinance (20204) focused on oil and gas local permitting.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Notice of Preparation for the above referenced project is available for public review at the Planning and Natural Resources Department, which is located at 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301, or it can be accessed on the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department website at: https://psbweb.kerncounty.com/planning/pdfs/eirs/oil_gas_ssreir/NOP/oil_gas_ssreir_nop.pdf

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project boundary encompasses 3,700 square miles and generally includes the San Joaquin Valley Floor portion of Kern County up to an elevation of 2,000 feet. The boundary is defined by the San Luis Obispo County line on the west; the Kings and Tulare County lines on the north; the 2,000-foot elevation contours, squared off to the nearest section line on the east; and the northern boundary of the Los Padres National Forest on the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is the reconsideration of revisions to Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance) for local permitting for oil and gas focused on Chapter 19.98 (Oil and Gas

Production), to address oil and gas exploration and operation activities in greater detail by: (a) establishing updated development, implementation standards, and conditions to address environmental impacts of pre-drilling exploration, well drilling, and the operation of wells and other oil and gas production-related equipment and facilities, including exploration, production, completion, stimulation, reworking, injection, monitoring, and plugging and abandonment; and (b) establishing new "Oil and Gas Conformity Review" and "Minor Activity Review" ministerial permit procedures for County approval of future well drilling and operations to ensure compliance with the updated development and implementation standards and conditions and provide for ongoing tracking and compliance monitoring. In January 2013, the California Independent Petroleum Association, Independent Oil Producers Agency, and Western States Petroleum Association (the "Project Proponents") requested that the County consider amending the Ordinance as summarized above. Under Chapter 19.112 of the Ordinance, amendments to the text of the Zoning Title of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance can only be initiated by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. On November 9, 2015, the County certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and approved the proposed Ordinance revisions as amendments to Title 19.

The purpose of the SSREIR is to provide the additional analysis and content required to address the three CEQA issues in the Supplemental Recirculated EIR (SREIR) that were identified in the Appellate Court opinion issued on March 7, 2024 for recent litigation.

The SSREIR will have the following Resource Area Chapters for analysis and proposed mitigation.

- Agricultural Resources,
- Air Quality,
- Hydrology and Water,
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Supplemental Analysis

The County Board of Supervisors previously adopted the proposed Ordinance amendments and certified an EIR on November 9, 2015. Several parties filed lawsuits challenging the adequacy of the certified EIR, and the cases were consolidated in the Kern County Superior Court. On April 20, 2018, the Court issued a judgment upholding the EIR except for two issues. The judgment did not vacate any portion of the Ordinance or the EIR. The County subsequently prepared and circulated a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) in response to the judgment. The SEIR was certified by the County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2018, and was not legally challenged.

Several parties appealed the Superior Court judgment. In October 2019, the Appellate Court rejected constitutional claims against the Ordinance amendments. On February 25, 2020, the Appellate Court issued an opinion that upheld the Superior Court judgment and the adequacy of the certified EIR except for "five areas in which the EIR did not comply with CEQA: (1) mitigation of water supply impacts; (2) impacts from PM2.5 emissions; (3) mitigation of conversion of agricultural land; (4) noise impacts; and (5) recirculation of the Multi-Well Health Risk Assessment for public review and comment." The opinion set aside the previously approved Ordinance amendments and the certification of the EIR. The opinion further directs the County, "in the event it decides to present the Ordinance (in its present or a modified form) to the Board for approval, to correct the CEQA violations identified in this opinion," to prepare "a revised EIR correcting the CEQA violations," and to prepare and publish "responses to the comments received before certifying the revised EIR and reapproving the Ordinance."

In response, the County prepared a Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report which was circulated twice with a final decision and adoption of a Revised Ordinance and Final Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2021. Various parties sued to challenge the decision and on March 7, 2024, the Appellate Court issued a second opinion directing

the County to continue to suspend permitting under the ordinance and to correct three “ CEQA violations. . . before certifying the revised environmental impact report as complete and approving such an ordinance.”

The purpose of this SSREIR is to provide analysis to address the CEQA issues found by the Appellate Court decision and provide compliance for CEQA for the reconsideration by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors of the Zoning Ordinance revisions focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting.

Signature: Keith Alvidrez

Name: Keith Alvidrez, Planner II

SSREIR Oil & Gas NOP

City of Maricopa
P.O. Box 548
Maricopa, CA 93252

City of Arvin
P.O. Box 548
Arvin, CA 93203

Bakersfield City Planning Dept 1715
Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bakersfield City Public Works Dept
1501 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

California City Planning Dep
21000 Hacienda Blvd.
California City, CA 93515

Delano City Planning Dept
P.O. Box 3010
Delano, CA 93216

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

City of Taft Planning & Building
209 East Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268

City of Tehachapi
Attn: John Schlosser
115 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561-1722

Los Angeles Co Reg Planning Dept
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Inyo County Planning Dept
P.O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526

Kings County Planning Agency
1400 West Lacey Blvd, Bldg 6
Hanford, CA 93230

Santa Barbara Co Resource Mgt Dept
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

San Bernardino Co Planning Dept
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

San Luis Obispo Planning Dept and Building
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente/Bakersfield
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308-6837

Tulare County Planning & Dev Dept
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Ventura County RMA Planning Div
800 South Victoria Avenue, L1740
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

U.S. Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 South Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Tim Fox, RLA - Comm Plans & Liaison
429 E Bowen, Building 981 Mail Stop 4001
China Lake, CA 93555

Edwards AFB
Mission Sustainability Liaison
412 TW/XPO, Bldg 2750, Ste 117-14
195 East Popson Avenue
Edwards AFB, CA 93524

Federal Aviation Administration
Western Reg Office
777 South Aviation Boulevard, Suite 150
El Segundo, CA 90245

Federal Communications Comm
18000 Studebaker Road, #660
Cerritos, CA 90701

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
2800 Cottage Way #W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Hopper
Mountain (Bitter Creek)
2493 Portola Road, Suite A
Ventura, CA 93003

Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX Office
75 Hawthorn Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Dept of Agriculture/NRCS
5080 California Avenue, Ste 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 997
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

State Air Resources Board Stationary
Resource Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

So. San Joaquin Valley Arch Info Ctr
California State University of Bkfd
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Caltrans District 6
Planning/Land Bank Bldg.
P.O. Box 12616
Fresno, CA 93778

Caltrans District 9 Planning Department
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Caltrans
Division of Aeronautics, MS #40
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Caltrans
Division of Structures
Attn: Jim Roberts
P.O. Box 1499
Sacramento, CA 95807

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Director's Office
801 "K" Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
4800 Stockdale Highway, Ste 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
801 "K" Street, MS 20-20
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Office of the State Geologist
801 "K" Street, MS 12-30
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation Office
Land Conservation
801 "K" Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Office of Mine Reclamation
801 "K" Street MS 09-06
Sacramento, CA 95814-3529

State Dept of Conservation Div
Recycling Cert. Sec.
801 "K" Street, MS 19-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Mining and Geology Board
801 K Street, MS 20-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State University
Bakersfield – Library
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

California Energy Commission
James W. Reed, Jr.
1516 Ninth Street Mail Stop 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish & Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

State Dept of Food & Agriculture
1220"N" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Highway Patrol Planning &
Analysis Division
P.O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

State Office of Historical Pres
Attn: Susan Stratton
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 95296-0001

Integrated Waste Management
P.O. Box 4025, MS #15
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

State Dept of Parks & Recreation
Tehachapi District
Angeles District Mojave Desert Sector
15701 E. Avenue M
Lancaster, CA 93535

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Drinking Water
Attn: Jesse Dhaliwal, Sr. Sanitary Eng
4925 Commerce Drive, Suite 120
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Public Utilities Comm Energy Div
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

California Regional Water Quality Control
Board/Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2020

Sequoia National Forest Kern River
Ranger Station
11380 Kernville Road
Kernville, CA 93238

State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Ste 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

State Dept of Toxic Substance Control
Environmental Protection Agency
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612

State Department of Toxic
Substances Control
1000 "I" Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812

State Dept of Water Resources
San Joaquin Dist.
3374 East Shields Avenue, Room A-7
Fresno, CA 93726

State Dept of Water Resources
Div. Land & Right-of-Way
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

CalRecycle Department of Resources,
Recycling, and Recovery
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Kern County Agriculture Department

Kern County Airports Department

County Clerk

Kern County Administrative Officer

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Survey

Kern County Public Health Services Department/
Environmental Health Division

Kern County Fire Dept
Aaron Duncan, Fire Chief

Kern County Fire Dept
Michael Nicholas, Assistant Fire Marshal

California State Fire Marshall
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

Kern County Library/Beale Local
History Room

Kern County Library/Beale Andie Sullivan

Kern County Museum
3801 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Sheriff's Dept Administration

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Development Review

Kern County Public Works Department/
Operations & Maintenance/Regulatory
Monitoring & Reporting

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Code Compliance

Kern County Employer's Training Resource

East Kern Air Pollution Control District

KernCOG
1401 19th Street - Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention School District Facility Services
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern High School District
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Local Agency Formation Comm/LAFCO
5300 Lennox Avenue, Suite 303
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California Highway Patrol
Shaun C. Crosswhite – Lieutenant, Area
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29449 Stockdale Highway
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California Highway Patrol Scot
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Bakersfield, CA 93313

California Highway Patrol
Jeffrey Briggs, Lieutenant Bakersfield Area 420
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Kern County Water Agency
P.O. Box 58
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Delano Mosquito Abatement District
Attn: John G. Davis
P.O. Box 220
Delano, CA 93215

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Attn: Morgan Lambert
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Golden Empire Transit
1830 Golden State Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

West Side Mosquito Abatement Dist.
P.O. Box 205
Taft, CA 93268

Kern Mosquito Abatement District
4705 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93314

South Fork Mosquito Abatement Dist
P.O. Box 750
Kernville, CA 93238-1298

Mojave Airport
1434 Flightline
Mojave, CA 93501

Bakersfield Municipal Airport
4101 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

California City Airport
22636 Airport Way, #8
California City, CA 93505

Rosamond Skypark/Airport
4000 Knox Avenue
Rosamond, CA 93560

Inyokern Airport
P.O. Box 634
Inyokern, CA 93527

Minter Field Airport District
201 Aviation Street
Shafter, CA 93263

Construction Materials Assoc of CA
1029 "J" Street, Suite 420
Sacramento, CA 95814

East Kern Airport District
1434 Flightline
Mojave, CA 93501

East Kern Airport Dist Engineer
3900 Ridgemoor Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Mountain Valley Airport
P.O. Box 100
Tehachapi, CA 93581

Aero Sports Skypark Corporation
P.O. Box 2567
Rosamond, CA 93560

Los Angeles Audubon
926 Citrus Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036-4929

Tehachapi City Hall/Airport
115 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Center for Biological Diversity
Attn: Adam Lazar
351 California Street, #600
San Francisco, CA 94104

Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee
4067 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

AT&T California OSP Engineering/
Right-of-Way
4901 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Kern Audubon Society
Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman
4124 Chardonnay Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Mojave Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 935
Mojave, CA 93502

Center Race, Poverty & Environment
1999 Harrison Street – Suite 650
San Francisco, CA 94612

Defenders of Wildlife
Kim Delfino, California Director
980 9th Street, Ste 1730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Anitra Kass
Pacific Crest Trail Association
41860 Saint Annes Bay Drive
Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203

California Farm Bureau
2300 River Plaza Drive, NRED
Sacramento, CA 95833

Friant Water Users Authority
854 North Harvard Avenue
Lindsay, CA 93247-1715

Sheppard Mullin
Attn: Kendra Joy Casper
333 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Native American Heritage Preservation
Council of Kern County
Attn: Gene Albitre
3401 Aslin Street
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Beth Boyst
Pacific Crest Trail Program Manager
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Southern California Edison
120 Woodlands Drive
Wofford Heights, CA 93285

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Attn: Matt Coleman
1918 "H" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PG&E Co Land Projects
650 "O" Street, First Floor
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

So. Cal Edison Planning Dept.
510 S. China Lake Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter
P.O. Box 3357
Bakersfield, CA 93385

Smart Growth - Tehachapi Valleys
P.O. Box 1894
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1894

Southern California Gas Co
Transportation Dept
9400 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91313-6511

Southern California Edison
P.O. Box 410
Long Beach, CA 90801

So. Cal Edison Planning Dept.
421 West "J" Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

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Pasadena, CA 91106

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25625 West Rye Canyon
Valencia, CA 91355

Southern California Gas Co
35118 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9477

Santa Rosa Rancheria Ruben
Barrios, Chairperson
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245

Verizon California, Inc.
Attn: Engineering Department
520 South China Lake Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Julio Quair
729 Texas Street
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Tubatulabals of Kern County
Attn: Robert Gomez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 226
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Kern Valley Indian Council
Attn: Robert Robinson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Kern Valley Indian Council Historic
Preservation Office
P.O. Box 401
Weldon, CA 93283

Audubon California
Garry George
Renewable Energy Director
4700 Griffin Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Tejon Indian Tribe
Attn: Candice Garza
4941 David Road
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
Attn: Chairperson
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
Attn: John Valenzuela, Chairperson
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322

Tule River Indian Tribe Neal
Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

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28999 South Lower Valley Road
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Carol Bender
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George Borba
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Control Committee
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Country Oak Homeowners Assoc
PO Box 1424
Tehachapi, CA 93581

Bolthouse Properties
Attn: Brad DeBranch
2000 Oak Street, Suite 250
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Capitol Oil Corporation
3840 Watt Avenue, Bldg B
Sacramento, CA 95821-2640

Center Race, Poverty & Environmental
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
1012 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215

Rosamond Skypark
Attn: George Fischer
4000 Knox Avenue
Rosamond, CA 93560

Clifford, Jenkins & Brown
1430 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 900
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Hurlbutt, Clevenger, Long,
Vortmann & Rauber
615 South Atwood Street
Visalia, CA 93277

Crimson Resource Management
Attn: Kristine Boyer
5001 California Avenue, Suite 206
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Cummings Valley Protective Association
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581

State Dept of Parks/Hungry Valley
PO Box 1360
Lebec, CA 93243

Metro Water Dist. of So. Cal Ms.
Rebecca De Leon Envir. Planning Team
700 N. Alameda Street, US3-230
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Kern River Parkway Committee
PO Box 1861
Bakersfield, CA 93303

Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Katherine Evans
P.O. Box 567
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Tehachapi Resource Cons Dist.
321 West "C" Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561-2011

LIUNA
Attn: Danny Zaragoza
2201 "H" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Nature Conservancy West Reg Office
201 Mission Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Tricor Energy, LLC
190 Newport Center Drive, Suite 100
Newport Beach, CA 92660

AE Corporation Planning Dept
901 Via Piemonte, 5th Floor
Ontario, CA 91764

WZI, Inc.
1717 - 28th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
Attn: Dennis Slater
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Bakersfield, CA 93306-9704

Bakersfield City Parks & Rec Dept
4101 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Buttonwillow Rec & Parks Dist
P.O. Box 434
Buttonwillow, CA 93206-9320

Vintage Petroleum, LLC
Attn: Teri Altenburger
10800 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Bear Mountain Rec & Parks Dist
P.O. Box 658
Lamont, CA 93241

Shafter Rec & Parks Dist
700 East Tulare Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

Tehachapi Parks & Recreation Dist
P.O. Box 373
Tehachapi, CA 93561

West Side Rec & Parks Dist
P.O. Box 1406
Taft, CA 93268

State Dept of Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Rm 2003
San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Northwest Kern Resource Cons Dist
5080 California Avenue, Suite 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

So. San Joaquin Muni Utility Dist
P.O. Box 279
Delano, CA 93216

Desert Lake Community Service District
P.O. Box 567
Boron, CA 93516

Arvin Community Services Dist
309 Campus Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

California City Public Works Dept
8190 California City Blvd.
California City, CA 93505

Frazier Park Public Utility Dist
P.O. Box 1512
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Rosamond Community Serv Dist
3179 - 35th Street West
Rosamond, CA 93560

Enos Lane Public Utility Dist
P.O. Box 22198
Bakersfield, CA 93390

Lake Isabella Community Serv Dist
P.O. Box 647
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Boron Community Service Dist
P.O. Drawer B
Boron, CA 93516

Inyokern Community Serv Dist
P.O. Box 1418
Inyokern, CA 93527

Mojave Public Utility Dist
15844 "K" Street
Mojave, CA 93501

East Niles Community Serv Dist
P.O. Box 6038
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Lost Hills Utility Dist
P.O. Box 249
Lost Hills, CA 93249

Stallion Springs Community Services Dist
28500 Stallion Springs Drive
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Golden Hills Community Serv Dist
P.O. Box 637
Tehachapi, CA 93581

Wasco Public Works Dept
801 - 18th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Quail Valley Water Dist
3200 21st Street, Ste 401
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Lamont Public Utility Dist
8624 Segrue Road
Lamont, CA 93241

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation Dist
P.O. Box 1168
Wasco, CA 93280-8068

Superior Mutual Water Co
19474 Enos Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93312-9501

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Stockdale Mutual Water Co
P.O. Box 788
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Alta Sierra Mutual Water Co
10502 Sequoia Drive, No. 11
Wofford Heights, CA 93285

Semi Tropic Water Storage Dist
P.O. Box Z
Wasco, CA 93280

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Dist
849 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA 93314

Ashe Water Dist - Dept of Water Resources
4101 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Aerial Acres Water System
18110 Avenue B
North Edwards, CA 93523

Arvin-Edison Water Storage Dist
P.O. Box 175
Arvin, CA 93203

Belridge Water Storage Dist
21908 Seventh Standard Road
McKittrick, CA 93251

Tehachapi-Cummings Co Water Dist
P.O. Box 326
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Bella Vista Water Co
Attn: Gerald Hyneman
P.O. Box 15309
Weldon, CA 93283

Brock Mutual Water Co
12001 Brockridge Court
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Antelope Valley-E. Kern Water Agency
6500 West Avenue N.
Palmdale, CA 93551

Bodfish Water Co
P.O. Box 842
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Tejon-Castaic Water Dist
P.O. Box 1000
Lebec, CA 93243

Bakersfield City Water Resource Dept
1000 Buena Vista Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Buttonwillow County Water Dist
P.O. Box 874
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

California Water Service Co
3725 South "H" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Berrenda Mesa Water Dist
14823 Highway 33
Lost Hills, CA 93249-9734

Cawelo Water Dist
17207 Industrial Farm Road
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9801

Edgemont Acres Water Co
P.O. Box 966
North Edwards, CA 93523

Buena Vista Water Storage Dist
P.O. Box 756
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Edmonston Acres Muni Water Co
25465 Barbara Street
Arvin, CA 93203

Friant Water Users Authority
854 North Harvard Avenue
Lindsay, CA 93247-1715

Casa Loma Water Co
1016 Lomita Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Erskine Creek Water Co
P.O. Box 656
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

West Kern Water Dist
P.O. Box 1105
Taft, CA 93268-1105

Kern River Groundwater Sustainability
Agency City Hall North
1600 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Vaughn Water Co.
10014 Glenn Street
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Greenfield County Water Dist
551 Taft Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Edmonston Acres Muni Water Co
25465 Barbara Street
Arvin, CA 93203

Gosford Road Water Assoc
13958 Gosford Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Kern Delta Water Dist
501 Taft Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Goose Lake Water Co
16232 Palm Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93314

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Board/Lahontan Region
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Kern Water Bank Authority
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Bakersfield, CA 93311

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Dist
12109 Highway 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313-9630

Kern-Tulare Water Dist
5001 California Avenue, Suite 102
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La Hacienda Water Co, Inc.
P.O. Box 60679
Bakersfield, CA 93386-0679

Indian Wells Valley Water Dist
P.O. Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

Lamont Storm Water Dist
P.O. Box 543
Lamont, CA 93241

Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power
111 North Hope Street, Rm 1121 Los
Angeles, CA 90012

Kern River Valley Water Co
P.O. Box 1260
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Davenport Mutual Water Assn
P.O. Box 1503
Rosamond, CA 93560

Mountain Mesa Water Co
12707 Highway 178
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Lake of Woods Mutual Water Co.
7025 Cuddy Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Mettler County Water Dist
1822 Steven Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93313

North of the River Muni Water Dist
P.O. Box 5638
Bakersfield, CA 93388-5638

Lebec County Water Dist
P.O. Box 910
Lebec, CA 93243

North Kern Water Storage Dist
P.O. Box 81435
Bakersfield, CA 93380-1435

Pinion Pines Mutual Water Co
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Lost Hills Water Dist
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Riverkern Mutual Water Co
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Kernville, CA 93238

North Edwards Water Dist
13001 Claymine Road
North Edwards, CA 93523

Rand Communities Co Water Dist
P.O. Box 198
Randsburg, CA 93554

Eastern Kern Resource Cons Dist
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Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4436

Oildale Mutual Water Co
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Bakersfield, CA 93388

Arvin Community Services Dist
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Arvin, CA 93203

Midway School Dist
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Fellows, CA 93224

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Kern Valley Resource Cons Dist
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Weldon, CA 93283

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North Edwards, CA 93523

Antelope Valley Resource Cons Dist
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Lancaster, CA 93534-3136

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Lost Hills, CA 93249

Richland-Lerdo Union School Dist
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Shafter, CA 93263

Lerdo School Dist
331 Shafter Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

Mountain View School Dist
8201 Palm Avenue
Lamont, CA 93241

Semi Tropic School Dist
25300 Highway 46
Wasco, CA 93280-9540

Mojave Unified School Dist
3500 Douglas
Mojave, CA 93501

Pond Union School District
29585 Pond Road
Wasco, CA 93280-9772

South Fork Union School Dist
5225 Kelso Valley Road
Weldon, CA 93283

Norris School Dist
6940 Calloway Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Rosedale Union School Dist
2553 Old Farm Road
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Taft City School Dist
820 North 6th Street
Taft, CA 93268

Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School Dist
6521 Enos Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93314

Sierra Sands Unified School Dist
113 Felspar
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Vineland School Dist.
8701 Weedpatch Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Shafter High School Dist
526 Mannel Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

Standard School Dist
1200 North Chester Avenue
Oildale, CA 93308

Maricopa Unified School Dist
955 Stanislaus Street
Maricopa, CA 93252

Southern Kern Unified School Dist
P.O. Box CC
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Tehachapi Unified School Dist
300 S Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Beardsley School Dist
1001 Roberts Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Taft Union High School Dist
701 7th Street
Taft, CA 93268

Wasco Union Elementary School Dist
639 Broadway
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Buttonwillow Union School Dist
42600 Highway 58
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Wasco Union High School Dist
P.O. Box 250
Wasco, CA 93280

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Education Center
1300 Baker Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Delano Joint Union High School Dist
1720 Norwalk Street
Delano, CA 93215-1456

Arvin High School
900 Varsity Street
Arvin, CA 93203

Panama-Buena Vista School Dist
4200 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313

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Edison, CA 93220-0368

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Bakersfield, CA 93307

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12400 Caliente Creek Road
Caliente, CA 93518

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Route 1, Box 34
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1405 12th Avenue
Delano, CA 93215

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P.O. Box 129
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3340 Erskine Creek Road
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1825 Shafter Road
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Lamont School Dist
8201 Palm Avenue
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7311 Rosedale Highway
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North of the River Parks & Rec Dist
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Bakersfield, CA 93308

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of Institutional Advancement
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Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

SCH # 2013081079

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: SSREIR for Revisions to Title 19 – Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2024) focused on oil and gas local permitting.
Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department **Contact Person:** Keith Alvidrez
Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100 **Phone:** (661) 862-5015
City: Bakersfield **Zip:** 93301 **County:** Kern

Project Location: County: Kern City/Nearest Community: Multiple
Cross Streets: N/A **Zip Code:** Multiple
Lat. / Long.: N/A **Total Acres:** Approx 2.3 million sq acres
Assessor's Parcel No.: Multiple **Section:** Multiple **Twp.:** Multiple **Range:** Multiple **Base:** _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 99, 58, 43, 46, 119, 223, 204, 33 **Waterways:** Kern River
Airports: Multiple **Railways:** Multiple
Schools: Multiple

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR **NEPA:** NOI **Other:** Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other _____
 Mit Neg Dec **Other** _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: Zoning Ordinance

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Educational _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Recreational _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Wildlife
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Growth Inducing
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Land Use
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Cumulative Effects
 Other _____

Present Land Use / Zoning / Map Code Designations: Developed and undeveloped land in Kern County. Current Zoning Classifications and General Map Code Designations to remain the same.

Project Description: The proposed project is the preparation of Second Supplemental Recirculated EIR (SSREIR) for reconsideration of Revisions to Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2020 A) for local permitting for oil and gas focused on Chapter 19.98 (Oil and Gas Production). On November 9, 2015, the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19.98 (Oil and Gas Production) and related sections of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance to address oil and gas exploration and operation activities within the

proposed project area in greater detail. The Board of Supervisors also certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzing the impacts of the amendments, and the implementation of future oil and gas development activities expected to be undertaken pursuant to the amended Ordinance in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In response to continued litigation, the Board of Supervisors certified on March 8, 2021, a Final Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) and adopted a Revised Ordinance. Various parties sued to challenge the decision and on March 7, 2024, the Appellate Court issued a second opinion directing the County to continue to suspend permitting under the ordinance and to correct three CEQA violations... before certifying the revised environmental impact report as complete and approving such an ordinance. The purpose of this SSREIR is to provide analysis to address the CEQA issues found by the Appellate Court decision and provide compliance for CEQA for the reconsideration by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors of the Zoning Ordinance revisions focused on oil and gas local permitting.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency, please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u> S </u> Air Resources Board | <u> </u> Office of Emergency Services |
| <u> </u> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <u> S </u> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <u> </u> California Highway Patrol | <u> </u> Office of Public-School Construction |
| <u> S </u> CalFire | <u> X </u> Parks & Recreation |
| <u> S </u> Caltrans District # <u> 6 </u> | <u> </u> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <u> S </u> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <u> </u> Public Utilities Commission |
| <u> </u> Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) | <u> S </u> Regional WQCB # <u>Central</u> |
| <u> </u> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <u> X </u> Resources Agency |
| <u> </u> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <u> </u> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <u> </u> Coastal Commission | <u> </u> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy |
| <u> </u> Colorado River Board | <u> </u> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <u> S </u> Conservation, Department of | <u> </u> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <u> </u> Corrections, Department of | <u> S </u> State Lands Commission |
| <u> </u> Delta Protection Commission | <u> </u> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <u> </u> Education, Department of | <u> S </u> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <u> S </u> Energy Commission | <u> </u> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <u> S </u> Fish & Game Region # <u>Fresno</u> | <u> </u> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <u> S </u> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <u> S </u> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <u> </u> General Services, Department of | <u> S </u> Water Resources, Department of |
| <u> </u> Health Services, Department of | <u> </u> Other _____ |
| <u> </u> Housing & Community Development | <u> </u> Other _____ |
| <u> S </u> Integrated Waste Management Board | |
| <u> S </u> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date March 22, 2024 Ending Date April 22, 2024

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ */s/* _____ **Date:** 3/22/2024
Keith Alvidrez, Planner II

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SSREIR) for Revisions to Title 19- Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2024) focused on oil and gas local permitting

(SCH# 2013081079)

Requested by:
Western States Petroleum Association
California Independent Petroleum Association

LEAD AGENCY:



Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
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March 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department (County) will initiate the preparation of the Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SSREIR) for the revisions to Title 19-Kern County Zoning Ordinance (2024) focused on oil and gas local permitting in the western half of Kern County, California.

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The project area is located in the western half of Kern County (County) and encompasses 3,700 square miles, which generally includes most of the San Joaquin Valley Floor portion of Kern County up to an elevation of 2,000 feet and additional areas in the southern portion of the project area. The project boundary is defined by the San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Barbara County lines on the west; the Kings and Tulare County lines on the north; the 2,000-foot elevation contours, squared off to the nearest section line on the east; and the northern boundary of the Los Padres National Forest and portions of the San Emigdio and Tehachapi Mountains on the south. The project boundary is based on information regarding areas with potential or confirmed oil and gas resources within the County's jurisdiction. The location of the project area is shown in *Figure 1 – Project Area Regional Location*.

Kern County is California's third-largest county in land area, encompassing 8,202 square miles. Located at the southern end of the Central Valley, Kern County serves as the gateway to southern California, the San Joaquin Valley, and California's high desert. The geography of Kern County is diverse, containing mountainous areas, agricultural lands, and desert areas.

Kern County is bounded by Kings, Tulare, and Inyo Counties on the north; San Bernardino County on the east; Los Angeles and Ventura Counties on the south; and Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties on the west. The County includes 11 incorporated cities within the San Joaquin Valley portion, including Arvin, Bakersfield, Delano, Maricopa, McFarland, Shafter, Taft, and Wasco. Oil and gas exploration and development activities have historically occurred in the San Joaquin Valley Floor portion of the County and are likely to occur within this area in the coming decades. For this reason, the SREIR evaluates potential impacts of future oil and gas exploration and production activities, to be specified, in a defined boundary as shown in *Figure 1 – Project Area Regional Location*. For purposes of this project, this area will be referred to as the Project Boundary Area.

The Project Boundary Area includes all unincorporated lands within the 409-square-mile Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan. However, the Project Boundary Area excludes portions of Metropolitan Bakersfield that are within the jurisdiction of the City of Bakersfield, and excludes all other city jurisdictions, including: Taft, Delano, Shafter, Arvin, McFarland, Maricopa, and Wasco. The Project Boundary is based on generally available information regarding areas with potential or confirmed oil and gas resources within the County's jurisdiction.



The Kern County General Plan Update describes the San Joaquin Valley region as “the southern San Joaquin Valley below an elevation of 1,000 feet mean sea level (MSL)” within Kern County. The San Joaquin Valley portion is characterized by relatively low rainfall, averaging less than 10 inches per year. Average temperatures are relatively high, and total evaporation exceeds total precipitation. Summers are relatively cloudless, hot, and dry. Winter is generally mild, but an occasional freeze does occur and may cause substantial agricultural damage. The average length of the growing season is 265 days. The San Joaquin Valley region is within the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, managed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. This district encompasses Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties, as well as the San Joaquin Valley portion of Kern County. Further, the San Joaquin Valley region is within the Tulare Lake Groundwater Basin, which includes the Kern River Hydrographic Unit and the Poso Hydrographic Unit.

A total of 100 active or abandoned oil fields are currently delineated by California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) are located within the Project Boundary Area, as see in *Figure 2 – Administrative Oilfields in the Project Area by Subarea and Oilfield Status (Active or Abandoned)*. As shown below in *Table 1: Oil Field Currently Delineated by CalGEM within Project Boundary Area*, these CalGEM-delineated oil fields vary widely in size—from the smallest, Kernsumner and Temblor East Well Fields at 0.2 square miles, to the largest, Midway Sunset Well Field at 99.7 square miles. Oil and gas production also occurs outside of CalGEM-delineated oilfield boundaries.

Table 1: Oil Field Currently Delineated by CalGEM within Project Boundary Area

Count	Administrative Oil Field (Alpha Order)	Square Miles*	Acres*
1	Ant Hill	1.7	1,098.0
2	Antelope Hills	4.4	2,823.7
3	Antelope Plains Gas (Abd)	0.3	160.5
4	Asphalto	4.6	2,975.5
5	Beer Nose	1.0	644.8
6	Belgian Anticline	15.4	9,864.9
7	Bellevue	3.6	2,326.4
8	Blackwells Corner	3.6	2,308.1
9	Bowerbank	16.2	10,352.4
10	Buena Vista	46.9	29,993.3
11	Buttonwillow Gas (Abd)	10.0	6,378.7
12	Cal Canal Gas	5.5	3,515.2
13	Calders Corner	1.5	970.0
14	Canal	3.9	2,476.7



15	Canfield Ranch	13.3	8,536.4
16	Capitola Park	1.0	651.5
17	Carneros Creek	1.5	967.3
18	Chico Martinez	2.6	1,634.8
19	Cienaga Canyon	0.6	402.4
20	Comanche Point	1.9	1,202.7
21	Cymric	21.5	13,757.8
22	Devils Den	12.8	8,175.4
23	Dyer Creek	0.4	239.9
24	Eagle Rest	0.5	309.3
25	Temblor, East (Abd)	0.2	154.6
26	Edison	34.0	21,742.3
27	Elk Hills	72.9	46,630.7
28	English Colony	1.1	681.5
29	Fruitvale	18.3	11,714.2
30	Garrison City Gas (Abd)	4.7	3,017.4
31	Gonyer Anticline (Abd)	0.5	344.9
32	Goosloo	3.0	1,935.4
33	Greeley	9.4	6,022.4
34	Jasmin	10.3	6,607.4
35	Jerry Slough (Abd)	0.5	318.0
36	Kern River	25.8	16,532.6
37	Kern Bluff	4.2	2,668.6
38	Kern Front	19.0	12,136.1
39	Kernsummer (Abd)	0.2	159.7
40	Lakeside	1.3	804.0
41	Landslide	2.1	1,373.9
42	Los Lobos	6.1	3,892.3
43	Lost Hills	33.2	21,273.1
44	McClung (Abd)	0.5	319.6
45	McDonald Anticline	3.7	2,372.4
46	McKittrick	10.6	6,776.8
47	Midway – Sunset **	99.7	63,832.8
48	Monument Junction	3.3	2,085.6



49	Mountain View	28.5	18,251.2
50	Mount Poso	45.9	29,360.5
51	Antelope Hills, North	3.9	2,466.8
52	Belridge, North	9.1	5,800.9
53	Coles Levee, North	15.1	9,671.0
54	Shafter, North	7.5	4,768.3
55	Tejon, North	9.2	5,914.3
56	Edison, Northeast	0.6	408.8
57	Lost Hills, Northwest	8.6	5,507.7
58	Semitropic Gas, Northwest (Abd)	0.5	322.5
59	Paloma	29.7	18,985.0
60	Pioneer	1.0	642.8
61	Pleito	3.0	1,927.3
62	Poso Creek	30.9	19,806.9
63	Railroad Gap	1.7	1,101.2
64	Rio Bravo	6.1	3,925.0
65	Rio Viejo	4.1	2,641.7
66	Rose	5.5	3,522.1
67	Rosedale	3.6	2,321.0
68	Rosedale Ranch	5.0	3,213.3
69	Round Mountain	19.2	12,265.9
70	Round Mountain South	0.4	276.7
71	San Emidio Nose	7.6	4,880.5
72	San Emigdio (Abd)	0.5	306.1
73	San Emigdio Creek (Abd)	0.5	340.7
74	Semitropic	25.1	16,077.3
75	Seventh Standard	0.5	320.3
76	Shafter (Abd)	0.5	321.2
77	Shafter Southeast Gas (Abd)	1.0	641.5
78	Shale Flats Gas (Abd)	1.0	647.1
79	Shale Point Gas	0.6	387.2
80	Bellridge, South	25.3	16,218.0
81	Coles Levee, South	17.7	11,328.4
82	Lakeside, South (Abd)	0.3	160.4



83	Stockdale	2.4	1,567.5
84	Strand	7.9	5,068.5
85	Tejon	11.3	7,227.8
86	Tejon Flats (Abd)	0.3	161.0
87	Tejon Hills	6.7	4,283.2
88	Temblor Hills	1.0	643.9
89	Temblor Ranch	0.5	318.4
90	Ten Section	7.4	4,725.9
91	Trico Gas **	6.8	4,359.4
92	Union Ave.	1.0	655.3
93	Valpredo	0.3	163.1
94	Wasco	4.0	2,575.6
95	Welcome Valley	0.8	490.4
96	Bellevue, West	2.0	1,248.3
97	Jasmin, West (Abd)	0.5	321.6
98	Wheeler Ridge	8.1	5,203.7
99	White Wolf	1.3	846.3
100	Yowlumne	10.1	6,446.8
TOTAL		931.4	596,198.3

Source: California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, Field Boundaries, March 6, 2013.

Notes:

* Numbers are approximate

**Oilfield located on the border of Kern County and an adjacent county; acreages within Kern County are approximate.

Key:

Abd = Abandoned

1.2. Project Setting

On November 9, 2015, the Kern County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance), Chapter 19.98 (Oil and Gas Production) and related sections of the Ordinance to address oil and gas exploration and operation activities within the project area in greater detail. The Board of Supervisors also certified an EIR analyzing the impacts of the amendments and the implementation of future oil and gas development activities expected to be undertaken pursuant to the amended Ordinance in accordance with CEQA.



As discussed in more detail in Section 1.5, below, the previously approved Ordinance amendments and certified EIR were directed to be set aside on March 26, 2020, pursuant to an opinion issued by the Appellate Court on February 25, 2020. The Appellate Court opinion rejected most of the legal challenges to the certified EIR except for five “CEQA violations” that the County must correct “in the event it decides to present the Ordinance (in its present or a modified form) to the Board for reapproval.” In response, the County prepared a Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report which was circulated twice with a final decision and adoption of a Revised Ordinance and Final Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2021. Various parties sued to challenge the decision and on March 7, 2024, the Appellate Court issued a second opinion directing the County to continue to suspend permitting under the ordinance and to correct three “CEQA violations. . . before certifying the revised environmental impact report as complete and approving such an ordinance.”

The County is preparing this Second Recirculated EIR to provide analysis addressing the CEQA deficiencies found by the March 7, 2024 Appellate Court decision. The Draft Second SREIR will provide compliance for CEQA for the reconsideration by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors of Zoning Ordinance revisions focused on Oil and Gas Local Permitting.

Although the project area encompasses 3,700 square miles, the proposed project includes only unincorporated County land. Therefore, the Project includes unincorporated County land within the 409- square-mile Metropolitan Bakersfield Planning Area (a joint planning area containing both County and City land) but excludes all adjacent City of Bakersfield land. The Project also excludes all other city jurisdictions, such as Taft, Delano, Shafter, Arvin, McFarland, Maricopa, and Wasco. Lands under the jurisdiction of various state and federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California State Lands Commission, are also included within the 3,700-square-mile project area but are excluded from the Project impact analysis. Ancillary equipment and land uses (e.g., pipelines and access roads on unincorporated County lands) are included in the project area and regulated by the County even though such equipment and land uses may serve wells on non-jurisdictional County lands (e.g., incorporated cities or federal/state lands). The Project impact analysis conservatively assumes that all new well activities in Kern County would occur within the portion of the project area subject to the County’s jurisdiction. Non-jurisdictional portions of the project area are included as part of the cumulative Project impact analysis.

To facilitate detailed analysis, the Project impact analysis divides the project area into three Project Subareas, the Western Subarea, the Central Subarea and the Eastern Subarea, which generally reflect major transportation corridors. The locations of the three Project Subareas are shown on *Figure 3 – Project Subareas*.

The Western Subarea consists of 1,714 square miles (1,096,842 acres) and is generally bounded by the Kern County border on the north and west, Los Padres National Forest on the south, and Interstate 5 on the east. The Western Subarea contains many of the large-scale oil and gas extraction-level operations in the project area and includes 37 active oil and gas fields. Five of



these oil and gas fields are the largest in California by production volume. The Western Subarea also includes dispersed agricultural operations and unincorporated areas around the cities of Taft and Maricopa.

The Central Subarea consists of 1,025 square miles (656,003 acres) and is generally bounded by the Kern County border on the north, Interstate 5 on the west, and State Routes 65 and 223 on the east. The Central Subarea contains 21 active oil and gas fields, some with large-scale production activity. The Central Subarea contains some of the County’s deepest wells, with oil operations co-locating with predominant agricultural activities in this subarea. The Central Subarea contains parts of the unincorporated Metropolitan Bakersfield area and includes unincorporated areas around the cities of Shafter, Delano, Wasco, and McFarland.

The Eastern Subarea consists of 953 square miles (609,889 acres) and is generally bounded by the County border on the north, State Routes 65 and 223 on the west, and mountain ranges on the east and the south. The Eastern Subarea contains 20 active oil and gas fields, along with several large-scale oil and gas production areas, such as the Kern River Oilfield north of the City of Bakersfield. The Eastern Subarea includes parts of the unincorporated Metropolitan Bakersfield area and unincorporated areas around the city of Arvin.

Kern County is the largest oil-producing county in the state. In 2012, 43,000 active oil and gas, dry gas, and gas storage wells, 78% of all active wells in California, were located in Kern County. In addition, 80% of all oil and natural gas produced in California came from wells in Kern County. The first commercially developed oilfield in Kern County was the McKittrick Field, which was developed in 1898. Development was facilitated by the presence of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Bakersfield to McKittrick. The Kern River Field, north of Bakersfield, was established in 1899 with the discovery of oil at that time. By 1903, 796 wells had produced almost 17 million barrels of oil from the Kern River Field. In the mid-1930s, several oilfields were found in large anticlines in Miocene oil sands beneath the valley floor. These discoveries were made following the advent of the reflection seismograph. Discoveries included the Ten Section, Greeley, Rio Bravo, North Coles Levee, South Coles Levee, and Strand oil fields.

1.3. Project Description

The proposed project consists of the reconsideration of amendments to Title 19 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 19.98 (Oil and Gas Production) and related sections of the Ordinance, and the implementation of future oil and gas development activities expected to be undertaken pursuant to the amended Ordinance. In January 2013, the California Independent Petroleum Association, Independent Oil Producers Agency and the Western States Petroleum Association (the “Project Proponents”) requested that the County consider amending the Ordinance to address oil and gas exploration and operation activities within the project area in greater detail. Under Chapter 19.112 of the Ordinance, amendments to the text of the Zoning Title of the Ordinance can only be initiated by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. On November 9, 2015, the County certified an EIR for the Project and approved the Ordinance amendments. As discussed in more detail in Section 1.5, below, the previously approved Ordinance amendments and certified EIR were directed to be set aside, effective March 26, 2020, pursuant to an Appellate Court opinion



issued on February 25, 2020. In response, the County prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report which was circulated twice with a final decision and adoption of a Revised Ordinance and Final Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2021. Various parties sued the decision and on March 7, 2024, the Appellate Court opinion directed the County to continue to suspend permitting under the ordinance and to correct three “CEQA violations” “before certifying the revised environmental impact report as complete and approving such an ordinance. The proposed project would amend the Zoning Ordinance to focus on local permitting for oil and gas exploration and operation activities within the project area in greater detail by:

- a) Establishing updated development and implementation standards and conditions to address environmental impacts of pre-drilling exploration, well drilling, and the operation of wells and other oil and gas production-related equipment and facilities, including exploration, production, completion, stimulation, reworking, injection, monitoring, and plugging and abandonment; and
- b) Establishing new “Oil and Gas Conformity Review” and “Minor Activity Review” ministerial permit procedures for County approval of future well drilling and operations to ensure compliance with the updated development and implementation standards and conditions and provide for ongoing tracking and compliance monitoring.

The primary changes that would be made to the Zoning Ordinance if the proposed project is approved by the County are as follows:

- a) Chapter 19.98 of the Ordinance would be comprehensively overhauled to remove the “Unrestricted Drilling” section and to update the “Drilling by Ministerial Permit” and “Drilling by Conditional Use Permit” sections. This update would require that all new oil and gas wells for exploration or production obtain approval from the Kern County Natural Resources and Planning Department prior to commencing drilling.
- b) A Tier System would be incorporated into Chapter 19.98 of the Ordinance to address the different land uses and zone districts where oil and gas activities occur. The Tier System would be made up of five distinct Tiers, including Tier 1, areas primarily consisting of existing oil and gas activities; Tier 2, areas primarily consisting of existing agricultural activities; Tier 3, areas primarily consisting of existing industrial development; Tier 4, areas primarily consisting of existing urban development in which oil and gas activities require a conditional use permit, and Tier 5 areas consisting of existing, and future adopted Specific Plans. The locations of the Tier areas that would be added to the Ordinance are shown in *Figure 4 – Oil and Gas Activity Tiers 1–5 Locations*.
- c) An Oil and Gas Conformity Review would be required as part of the “Drilling by Ministerial Permit” Section that would be added to the Ordinance in the proposed amendments to allow for comprehensive review of all drilling activities. The review would require consistent, comprehensive mitigation based on defined Tiers of surrounding land uses, as would be specified in the amended Ordinance and in the Mitigation, Monitoring,



and Reporting Plan (MMRP) that would be adopted with the proposed amendments. An application package would be submitted to the County that includes a site plan and written documentation ensuring compliance with all applicable development and implementation standards and conditions, including the MMRP.

- d) A Minor Activity Review would be required as part of the “Drilling by Ministerial Permit” section that would be added to the Ordinance in the proposed amendments to allow for comprehensive review of minor oil and gas activities. The review would require consistent, comprehensive mitigation based on defined Tiers of surrounding land uses, as would be specified in the amended Ordinance and in the MMRP. An application package would be submitted with written documentation ensuring compliance with all applicable Development and Implementation Standards and Conditions, including the MMRP.
- e) The Development and Implementation Standards and Conditions section of the Ordinance would be updated by the proposed amendments to require compliance with all applicable mitigation measures in the MMRP and additional regulatory requirements. Some of the new standards would include setbacks from sensitive receptors, reductions in the overall footprint of drilling areas, new screening requirements, and measures to avoid or reduce impacts to resources such as biological and cultural areas, groundwater, and air quality.
- f) For all Oil and Gas Conformity Review Site Plans submitted to the County, an applicant would be required to submit a signature block and statement as part of the application package. The signature block would provide for the signatures of the applicant and, if different, the Mineral Owner of the land subject to a proposed Site Plan. In addition, for activities occurring on split estate lands, where the Land/Surface Owner is different from the Mineral Owner, the signature block would provide for the signature of the Land/Surface Owner. For applications submitted with the required signature block and statement, the first review by the County would take place within seven business days. If the County finds the application to be incomplete and requests additional information, a second review would take place within three business days upon receipt of the requested information.
- g) The proposed Ordinance amendments also include a separate application processing procedure for applications on split estate lands that are lacking a signature block signed by the Land/Surface Owner. For applications submitted without the required signature block and statement, the review process would take 30 days to allow time for surface owner consultation, with an automatic 30-day second review period. Should the applicant obtain the Land/Surface Owner’s signature during either 30-day review period, the application would be processed within seven days. However, applications would not be rejected for lack of a signature by the Land/Surface Owner.
- h) A new fee structure would be included to ensure that all mitigation is complied with and that the County will be sufficiently staffed to review all new applications.
- i) Other sections of the Ordinance would be updated by the proposed amendments to ensure consistency with the MMRP and other regulatory requirements. These sections include



19.08 – Interpretations and General Standards, 19.48 – Drilling Island (DI) District, 19.50 – Floodplain Primary District, 19.66 – Petroleum Extraction (PE) Combining District, 19.81 – Outdoor Lighting (Dark Skies Ordinance), 19.88 – Hillside Development, 19.102 – Permit Procedures, and 19.108 – Nonconforming Uses, Structures, and Lots.

The proposed project impact analysis conservatively assumes that over a 25-year planning horizon an average of 2,697 new producing wells per year could be drilled in the project area and subject to permitting under the amended Ordinance. The level of well drilling in any given year may be higher or lower than this average, consistent with the variations in well drilling activities that have historically occurred due to market and other conditions. “Producing wells” refers to oil and gas, dry gas, dry hole, and liquid petroleum gas wells. Each well drilled may be associated with a number of other oil and gas activities. For purposes of the Project impact analysis, oil and gas activities are divided into two sets of components: (1) construction activities, which may include but are not limited to geophysical surveys, access road and well pad construction, drilling, well completion and testing, distribution line construction, well re-working and workovers, well decommissioning, and well abandonment; and (2) operational activities, which may include but are not limited to geophysical monitoring, produced fluids and natural gas treatment, water management, well stimulation treatment, enhanced oil recovery activities, and water and waste gas injection via injection well.

Wells may also need to be “re-worked” during the operating life span of the well to adjust for evolving field conditions or new technologies (e.g., well stimulation). Finally, decommissioning and abandonment involves abandoning wells and plugging activities. Accordingly, while construction activities are considered separately from operational activities because of their limited duration, activities categorized as “construction” occur continually throughout exploration, development, production, and closure. Exploration, development, production, and closure involve the following short-term construction activities. At a particular site, these activities may take place in the order listed below or in a different sequence:

- Geophysical Surveys
- Well Pad Preparation;
- Testing;
- Access Road Construction;
- Electrical Distribution Line and Substation Construction;
- Drilling;
- Well Completion;
- Construction of Oil, Gas Treatment Facilities;
- Construction of Water Treatment Facilities;



- Steam Generator Construction;
- Construction of Tankage and Containment Structures;
- Pipeline Installation;
- Construction of Sumps, Evaporation Ponds and Percolation Ponds;
- Installation of Produced Water Injection Wells;
- Construction of Fencing;
- Administrative Facility Construction;
- Well Re-Working and Workovers;
- Well Stimulation;
- Decommissioning and Abandonment; and
- Reactivation of Idle Wells.

During well operations, when oil is being produced, the following routine operations and maintenance activities occur at well locations:

- Geophysical monitoring;
- Treatment of Produced Water, Oil and Gas;
- Water Management;
- Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Activities;
- Injection Wells (Class II Fluids);
- Sumps;
- Percolation and Evaporation Ponds;
- Vegetation Control;
- Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Procedures;
- Non-Hazardous Solid Waste Management;
- Well, Pipeline, Tank and Vessel Testing and Maintenance;
- Centralized Oil/Water Separation;
- Steam Generators;



- Electric Distribution Line and Substation Maintenance;
- Access Road Maintenance;
- Distribution of Crude Oil; and
- Administrative Building and Personnel Housing.

In addition to oil and gas wells, installation and operation of ancillary equipment and facilities are integral components of oil and gas exploration and production. All wells, for example, are connected by pipelines to tanks that separate oil from the other extracted liquids (primarily “produced water” from the same geologic strata as the oil or gas, along with water and additives that may be injected as steam or liquid to help extract the oil). Wells also have monitoring devices, and may have electric and telecommunication equipment, and waste gas collection lines.

“Tank farms” that include tanks for separating oil and water, and storing oil and water, typically serve several wells and vary in size and distance from wells. Produced water collected in tanks is typically re- used for further extraction purposes, stored in surface impoundments where it percolates into groundwater and/or evaporates, or disposed of by injection well. Some produced water requires treatment prior to reuse for extraction, or disposal, and some produced water is treated and reclaimed for other purposes.

Extraction technologies include injecting large volumes of water (water flooding) or steam (steam flooding and cyclic steam injection) into production strata, and managing the time that each well is active and idle to maximize the recovery efficiency. Additional ancillary equipment and facilities required for these enhanced recovery methods include producing steam, and pressurizing steam or water, typically through larger cogeneration plants serving the wellfields where these techniques are utilized. Personnel conducting wellfield construction, maintenance, and operating activities are typically dispatched from centralized facilities (most located in Bakersfield), although some workers are staffed on site, especially at larger oilfields.

1.4. Project Objectives

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has defined the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Update the County’s Zoning Ordinance to create a local permit for oil and gas activities so that County development standards and protective mitigation measures can be implemented for the purpose of reducing or eliminating potential significant adverse environmental impacts, to the extent feasible, of future oil and gas activities and, thereby, ensure that current County ordinances implement the Board of Supervisor’s policies to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of communities, residents, and visitors.
- Encourage ongoing economic development by the oil and gas industry that creates quality, high- paying jobs and promotes capital investment in Kern County, which enables the County to invest in capital improvement projects and social programs, which benefit County residents, retail businesses, and capital industries, which ensures the County’s



fiscal stability.

- Continue Kern County’s ongoing commitment to consult and cooperate with federal, state, regional, and local agencies by periodically reviewing adopted regulations to ensure the long-term viability of Kern County’s resources.
- Continue to improve and streamline current energy regulations and increase County monitoring and involvement in state and federal energy legislation.
- Protect areas of important mineral, petroleum, and agricultural resource potential for future use by promoting sustainability and encouraging Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are mutually beneficial, through strategic short- and long-range planning.
- Ensure the protection of environmental resources by emphasizing the importance of productive agricultural lands, the encouragement of planned urban growth, the promotion and implementation of clean air strategies to address existing air quality issues, and the promotion of long-term water conservation strategies, which will ensure the quality and adequacy of surface and groundwater supplies for future growth of all of Kern County’s industries and communities.
- Contain new development within an area large enough to meet generous projections of foreseeable need but in locations that will not impair the economic strength derived from residential developments, agriculture, rangeland, mineral resources, or diminish the other amenities that exist in Kern County.

The Project Proponents have defined the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Create an effective regulatory and permitting process for oil and gas exploration and production that can be relied on by the County of Kern, as well as CalGEM and other responsible agencies.
- Achieve an efficient and streamlined environmental review and permitting process for all oil and gas operations covered by the proposed Project.
- Provide for economically feasible and environmentally responsible growth of the Kern County oil and gas industry.
- Develop industry-wide best practices, performance standards, and mitigation measures that ensure adequate protection of public health and safety and the environment.
- Increase oil and gas exploration and production in Kern County as a means of reducing California’s dependence upon foreign sources of energy.
- Increase oil and gas exploration and production in Kern County as a means of increasing employment opportunities and economic prosperity for Kern County’s residents, businesses, and local government.

1.5. SSREIR Purpose

The purpose of the SSREIR is to provide the additional analysis and content required to address the three CEQA deficiencies in the Supplemental Recirculated EIR (SREIR) that were identified in the Appellate Court opinion issued on March 7,2024.



The SSREIR will have the following Resource Area Chapters for analysis and proposed mitigation:

- Agricultural Resources,
- Air Quality,
- Hydrology and Water,
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Supplemental Analysis

The County Board of Supervisors previously adopted the proposed Ordinance amendments and certified an EIR on November 9, 2015. Several parties filed lawsuits challenging the adequacy of the certified EIR, and the cases were consolidated in the Kern County Superior Court. On April 20, 2018, the Court issued a judgment upholding the EIR except for two issues. The judgment did not vacate any portion of the Ordinance or the EIR. The County subsequently prepared and circulated a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) in response to the judgment. The SEIR was certified by the County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2018, and was not legally challenged.

Several parties appealed the Superior Court judgment. In October 2019, the Appellate Court rejected constitutional claims against the Ordinance amendments. On February 25, 2020, the Appellate Court issued an opinion that upheld the Superior Court judgment and the adequacy of the certified EIR except for “five areas in which the EIR did not comply with CEQA: (1) mitigation of water supply impacts; (2) impacts from PM2.5 emissions; (3) mitigation of conversion of agricultural land; (4) noise impacts; and (5) recirculation of the Multi-Well Health Risk Assessment for public review and comment.” The opinion set aside the previously approved Ordinance amendments and the certification of the EIR. The opinion further directs the County, “in the event it decides to present the Ordinance (in its present or a modified form) to the Board for approval, to correct the CEQA violations identified in this opinion,” to prepare “a revised EIR correcting the CEQA violations,” and to prepare and publish “responses to the comments received before certifying the revised EIR and reapproving the Ordinance.”

In response, the County prepared a Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report which was circulated twice with a final decision and adoption of a Revised Ordinance and Final Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (SREIR) by the Kern County Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2021. Various parties sued to challenge the decision and on March 7, 2024, the Appellate Court issued a second opinion directing the County to continue to suspend permitting under the ordinance and to correct three “CEQA violations. . . before certifying the revised environmental impact report as complete and approving such an ordinance.”

In compliance with the Appellate Court opinion, the County will prepare and circulate a Second SREIR that will address the following issues to provide analysis on the three CEQA deficiencies in the SREIR identified by the Appellate Court March 7, 2024 opinion inclusive of analysis already provided in the set aside Supplemental Recirculated EIR.



- (1) **Agricultural easements as partial mitigation** – Consistent with the opinion, the Second SREIR will consider feasible mitigations for impacts on the conversion of agricultural lands that utilizes agricultural easements.
- (2) **Multi-Well Health Risk Assessment and cancer risk** – The Second SREIR will assess the cancer risks associated with the drilling of multiple wells near sensitive receptors.
- (3) **Water Supply Impacts** – The Second SREIR will assess the impacts of oil and gas use of water on disadvantaged communities and consider feasible mitigation for any identified impacts.

Consistent with the opinion, the County will prepare and publish responses to comments on the Second SREIR prior to the consideration by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors of the Final Second SREIR and proposed adoption of the Revised Zoning Ordinance.



Figure 2 – Administrative Oilfields in the Project Area by Subarea and Oilfield Status (Active or Abandoned)

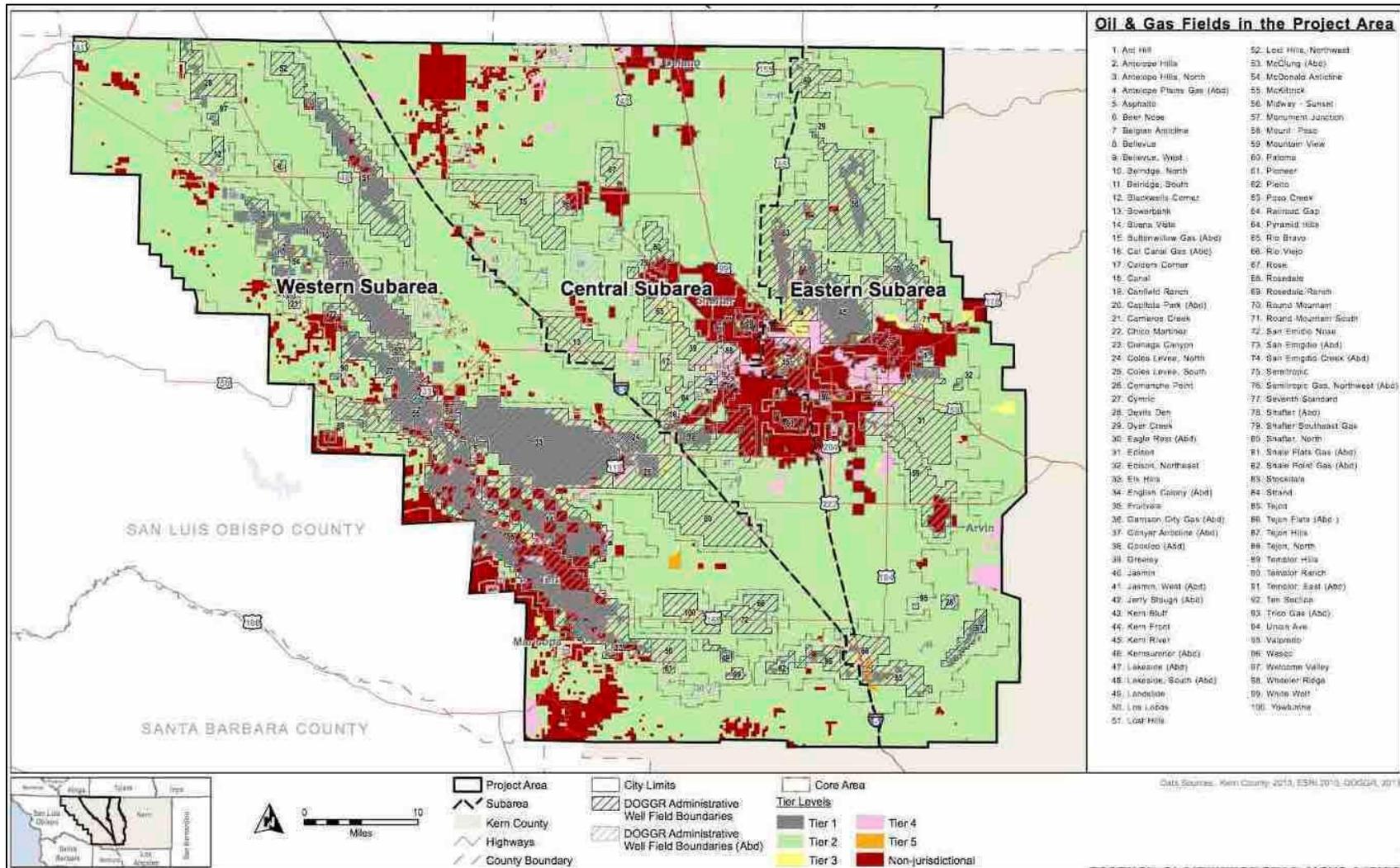




Figure 3 – Project Subareas

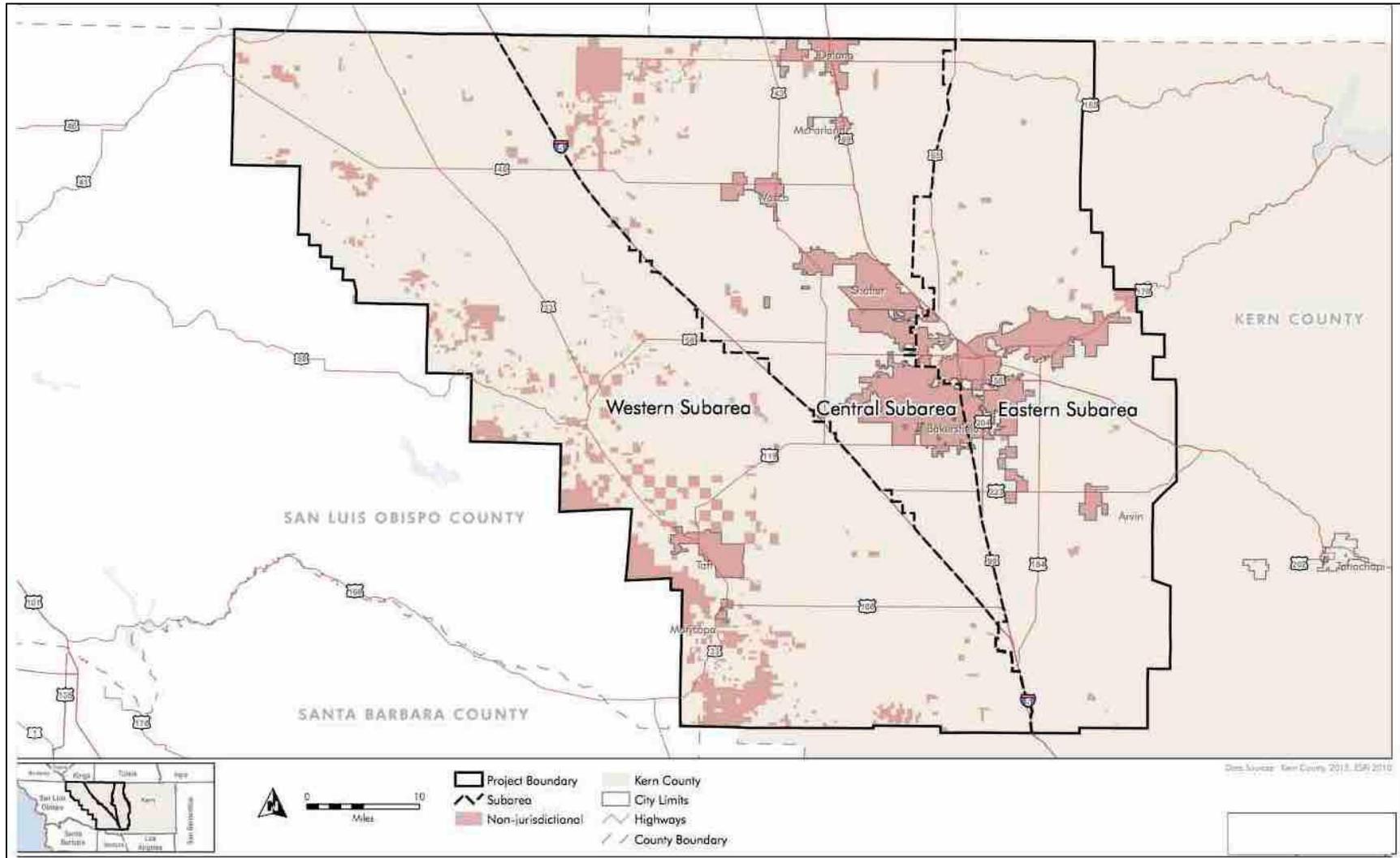




Figure 4 – Oil and Gas Activity Tiers 1 to 5 Location

