UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office
35126 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, 93308

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Sentinel Peak Resources California
One Application for Permit to Drill in Midway Sunset
DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2025-0112-EA
Previously DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2024-0104-EA

INTRODUCTION:

On 5/06/2024, Sentinel Peak Resources California submitted one (1) Application for Permits to Drill (APD) to drill Well: Band 125 on federal mineral lease CAS019372 in Section 24, T31S, R22E, MDBM in Kern County, CA. The proposed project would occur on public lands containing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered mineral estate within the Midway Sunset Oilfield. Permitted activities under this approval would include the grading of a 200' X 100' well pad and drilling of one (1) producing oil well. No flowlines, producing facilities or other infrastructure are being evaluated under this proposal. Additional activities not specified herein require approval through the sundry notice process (COAs) and must conform with surface disturbance limits set forth in the 2014 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan and the 2017 Oil and Gas Programmatic Biological Opinion 08ESMF00-2016-F-0683, "2017 BO". Project implementation would be conducted within the existing project footprint, to the maximum extent possible. However, an additional 0.5 acres of habitat disturbance is projected for the proposed action.

The purpose of the proposed action is to respond to the APD. The need for the action is established by BLM's responsibility under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and other applicable laws and policies which require BLM to allow reasonable access to develop a federal oil and gas lease.

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); relevant federal and applicable state laws and regulations; and BLM policy. The BLM will use this analysis to decide whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the APDs.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based on my review of the attached EA and supporting documents, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This finding is based on the degree of the effects described in the following sections within the identified affected environment.

Potentially Affected Environment

The proposed location consists of BLM administered land and minerals in Section 24, T31S, R22E, MDBM, in Kern County, CA. The site is located within annual grassland and valley saltbrush scrub habitat in a low-density oilfield. The location does not include unique features requiring additional analysis.

Because climate change is a global phenomenon with impacts related to the average concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere, the potentially affected environment includes the entire nation. With respect to air quality, the resource study area (RSA) for the proposed action (where the effects of the action will be felt) includes the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD).

The RSA considered for biological resources includes the proposed project location and the habitat within the 950 acres surrounding the project location. Including all existing development (roads, well pads, etc.), the RSA has lost a total of 280 acres of habitat since development began, which constitutes approximately 10% of CAS019372 and 30% of the RSA as a whole.

Degree of Effects

The following have been considered in my evaluation of the selected alternative:

i. Short- and long-term effects

Short-term effects associated with the proposed project would include noise, increased human activity, the presence of heavy equipment during construction activities, and air pollution emissions. Well development, including drilling and completion, is estimated to require 14 days with a drill rig generator running 23 hours per day. Workover operations during production are estimated to take place at a frequency of once per year and would require one rig, one medium-duty truck, and six worker vehicles over two 12-hour workdays per well.

Long-term effects include production of fluid mineral resources which, when burned, contribute to habitat disturbance and greenhouse gas quantities. The estimated operating life of a well is 30 years with marked declines in production and related emissions beginning around year 10. Comparatively, the projected average annual GHG emissions from potential development of the subject lease are equivalent to 331 gasoline-fueled passenger vehicles driven for one year, or 296 homes' electricity use, or emissions offset by the carbon sequestration of 1,420 acres of forest land.

BLM modeling suggests that emissions from federal minerals are predicted to have minimal impacts on future global climate change through the end of the century. The reasonably foreseeable emissions from the proposed action are not expected to substantially affect climate change rates or alter the magnitude of impacts already identified in existing literature.

Any habitat disturbance associated with the proposed action would be offset by purchasing off-site mitigation acreage for federal oil and gas projects, ensuring that land identified as reserves or corridors be conserved as habitat. Although mitigation acres are located outside of the RSA, the

mitigation would positively impact biological resources overall. Additionally, once the well is abandoned, the area is committed to reclamation, and habitat would ultimately be restored in the project area.

ii. Effects on public health and safety

The proposed project is comparable to other similar activities and projects already undertaken on BLM-administered lands within the Bakersfield Field Office and nationwide with no unusual health or safety concerns. Operators are subject to the standards outlined in the California Occupational Safety and Health Plan, and the State must conduct inspections to enforce its standards and must operate occupational safety and health training and education programs. Additionally, operators must comply with federal safety regulations outlined in 43 CFR 3160 and the Onshore Oil and Gas Orders. Implementation of measures to meet these standards and regulations would minimize risks to public health and safety; therefore, any impacts to public health and safety are not considered significant.

iii. Effects that would violate Federal, State, Tribal, or local laws protecting the environment

The operator must adhere to all relevant Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws protecting the environment, as specified in the EA for the proposed action. The project is consistent with applicable land management plans (including the 2014 Bakersfield Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision), policies, and programs. The EA complies with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and is consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The proposed action also complies with the 2017 Oil and Gas Programmatic Biological Opinion 08ESMF00-2016-F-0683, "2017 BO". No federally listed species would be expected to be adversely impacted as avoidance and mitigation actions specific to the project site will be implemented as a condition of approval.

Coordination and consultation with state, local and tribal interests was conducted as described in the EA. Notification letters were mailed to relevant Tribes which included an invitation to initiate consultation regarding the proposed action and a request for information about any sites or resources important to the tribe which could be affected. No comments or concerns were received from any of the recipients.

The action is not expected to adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP.

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Assistant Field Manager – Minerals