

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office**

Decision Record

**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
Programmatic Project #151**

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".

The purpose of the proposed action is to respond to the APD.

The need for the action is established by the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended (MLA), the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), and other applicable laws and policies which require BLM to allow reasonable access to develop a federal oil and gas lease.

Decision

I have reviewed the recommendations on the proposed action addressed in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). I find this action to be in conformance with applicable land use plans, to effectively serve the public, and to not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. It is therefore my decision to approve the proposed action, which is subject to the Design Features/Conditions of Approval included in the EA.

Alternatives Considered but not Selected

A No Action Alternative that would deny the application was considered but not selected.

Decision Rationale

The decision to approve the APD meets the purpose and need of BLM by allowing Sentinel Peak Resources California to expand production on federal mineral lease CAS019372, pursuant to MLA, FLPMA, and 43 CFR 3160.

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Bakersfield Resource Management Plan approved on December 22, 2014. The BLM has determined the proposed action conforms with the land use plan as the proposed action is specifically provided for in the land use plan objective MM-O-1 “Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals while minimizing impacts to other resources” (BLM, 2014; pg. 75).

Consultation and Coordination

Public Involvement

The BLM posted notification that it was considering these APDs on the E-Planning public website on September 22nd, 2025. This notice initiated the 30-day scoping period. The BLM also posted copies of the APDs in the front lobby of the Bakersfield Field Office for that 30-day period. Comments from the Center of Biological Diversity and Earth Justice were received on November 22, 2024, and November 14, 2025. Comments have been addressed in this EA.

Biological Consultation

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated in 2016. The Fish and Wildlife Service issued their “No jeopardy” biological opinion on December 22, 2017 (Programmatic Biological Opinion on Oil and Gas Activities on Bureau of Land Management Lands in the San Joaquin Valley, 08ESMF00-2016-F-0683). The 2017 Oil and Gas Programmatic Biological Opinion provides take coverage for authorization of individual projects occurring on surface and subsurface lands administered by the BLM in the San Joaquin Valley that disturb less than 10 acres of habitat or that encompass linear actions less than 10 miles long. This project occurs in Kern County. Project implementation would be conducted within the existing project footprint including access roads, staging areas, and well pads that have already been developed, to the maximum extent possible. New disturbance is projected to impact under 1 acre of habitat, thus meeting requirements for coverage under the 2017 Oil and Gas Programmatic Biological Opinion.

Plan Consistency

Based on information in the EA, the project record, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the Bakersfield RMP; the Endangered Species Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; and Executive Order 13212 regarding potential adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825-1890

The effective date of this decision and the date initiating the appeal period will be the date of approval by the authorized officer.

**JENNIFER
NASTOR**



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JENNIFER NASTOR
Date: 2025.11.19
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Assistant Field Manager- Minerals