

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BAKERSFIELD FIELD OFFICE
DECISION RECORD**

Aera:

**Abandonments - Maxwell A-1, A-2, K-1, 143, 156, 200, 202, 224, 385, and Western 7-30N
DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2016-0045-EA**

Introduction

Aera the Operator/Lessee submitted TEN Sundry Notices of Intent to plug and abandon wells: Maxwell A-1, A-2, K-1, 143, 156, 200, 202, 224, 385, and Western 7-30N, in the federal leases (CAS019392 & CAS021593) in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field, in Section 21& 27; 31S; 22E. No new habitat is expected or approved for these ten projects.

Decision

I have reviewed the recommendations on the proposed action addressed in this EA. I find this action to be in conformance with applicable land use plans, that it effectively serves the public, and that it will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation. It is therefore my decision to approve the Sundry to plug and abandon wells: Maxwell A-1, A-2, K-1, 143, 156, 200, 202, 224, 385, and Western 7-30N in Midway-Sunset, subject to the conditions of approval identified for the proposed action 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 Sundry to plug and abandon wells: Maxwell A-1, A-2, K-1, 143, 156, 200, 202, 224, 385, and Western 7-30N on their Federal Lease (CAS019392 & CAS021593) located in the in the Midway-Sunset Oil Field, in Section 21& 27; 31S; 22E, best meets the purpose and need of Aera, and the objective to supply energy resources to the American public. This decision also meets the Bakersfield RMP's Valley Management Objective:

“Facilitate reasonable, economical, and environmentally sound exploration and development of leasable minerals while minimizing impacts to resources.”

Consultation and Coordination

Biological Consultation

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not necessary due to the lack of new habitat disturbance in the proposed action.

SUMMARY OF PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Gabriel Garcia, Field Manager
Dave Faires, BLM Natural Resource Specialist
Tamara Whitley, BLM Archaeologist
Bud Hensley, Aera

Plan Consistency

Based on information in the EA, and recommendations from BLM specialists, I conclude that this decision is consistent with the Bakersfield RMP; the Endangered Species Act; the Native American Religious Freedom Act; other cultural resource management laws and regulations; Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice; 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.

/s/ John Hodge
John Hodge
Assistant Field Manager, Minerals
Bakersfield Field Office

3/7/16
Date