

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

**Environmental Assessment
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

**Holmes Western Oil Corporation
Sundry to Install Power Poles and Flowlines for Idle Wells Pacific 7 and Pacific 12
DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2016-0050-EA**

BACKGROUND

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to approve one (1) Sundry Notice of Intent submitted by Holmes Western Oil Corporation (HWOC) to install 587 feet of new 2 inch flowline and 596 feet of new 2 inch CVR line on 29 new pipe supports, two new power poles and three new anchors, as well as plug and remove existing pipeline located on the well pads; the project would occur on HWOC's federal Pacific mineral lease (CALA033068) in Section 32, T12N, R23W, SBBM. This project is located on federal lands containing subsurface minerals administered by the BLM. No new disturbance would result in association with the proposed project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide HWOC with the authority to install power poles and flowlines and remove existing pipeline in order to return idle wells Pacific 7 and Pacific 12 to production in the future to produce its federal mineral lease (CALA033068) and provide energy resources to the American public. The need for the proposed action is to respond to the Sundry Notice of Intent submitted by the applicant to conduct operations on public lands containing subsurface minerals administered by the BLM.

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared containing project-specific analysis of the impacts that could result from the approval of the Sundry Notice of Intent. This EA is attached to and incorporated by reference in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of the Proposed Action will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Bakersfield Resource Management Plan, approved in December 2014; (2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Resource Management Plan; and (3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement or

a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared. This finding is based on the following discussion:

Context: The proposed project is located on public land with BLM administered subsurface minerals in Section 32, T12N, R23W, SBBM, on HWOC's federal mineral lease (CALA033068). The proposed project area is in close proximity to dense oil and gas development and the installation will occur on primarily previously disturbed surface. The discretionary action is to approve the Sundry Notice of Intent submitted by HWOC for the installation of 587 feet of new 2 inch flowline and 596 feet of new 2 inch CVR line on 29 new pipe supports, two new power poles and three new anchors, as well as plug and remove existing pipeline.

The proposed activity is a site-specific action with minor localized effects on special status plant and animal species in the immediate area. The EA details the effects of the action alternatives. None of the effects identified, including cumulative effects, are considered to be significant and do not exceed those effects described in the Resource Management Plan.

Intensity: I have considered the potential intensity/severity of the impacts anticipated from the Vintage proposed action for the installation 587 feet of new 2 inch flowline and 596 feet of new 2 inch CVR line on 29 new pipe supports, two new power poles and three new anchors, as well as plug and remove existing pipeline. The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27. The discussions below apply to all project elements contained within the EA:

1. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse and a significant effect may exist regardless of the perceived balance of effects. Potential impacts include the destruction of habitat for federally listed species. However, these impacts would not be significant at the local scale or cumulatively because of the small scale of the project and design features that would reduce impacts to immeasurable levels. Listed species habitat destruction will be minimized. Long-term surface impacts will be limited to 25% of the BLM surface area.

2. The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or 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. All operators are subject to the standards outlined in the California Occupation 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. Also, 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 will minimize risks to public health and safety; therefore, any impacts to public health and safety are not considered significant.

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. No park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas would be adversely affected by the proposed development. The project area has been surveyed and analyzed for biological, historical, and cultural resources. The project will not significantly affect biological, historical, or cultural resources. Biological resources would not be significantly affected because HWOC would implement the project Design Features to mitigate for impacts to threatened and endangered species.

4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. It is highly unlikely that any portion of the analyzed action would be controversial. Similar actions are commonplace in the area and draw little controversy. Oil development has occurred within the San Joaquin Valley region, and specifically in the Midway Sunset Oil Field, for over 100 years.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The proposed project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar projects in similar areas and have found effects to be reasonably predictable. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment which are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. The proposed project does not set a precedent for future actions that may have significant effects. The proposed project is limited to the installation of 587 feet of new 2 inch flowline and 596 feet of new 2 inch CVR line on 29 new pipe supports, two new power poles and three new anchors, as well as plug and remove existing pipeline. Any future proposals submitted within the project area would be considered independently and be subject to site specific NEPA analysis and documentation.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The project is consistent with the actions and impacts anticipated in the Bakersfield RMP. No significant cumulative effects have been identified. A complete disclosure of the effects of the proposed action and no action alternative is contained in the EA.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. Cultural resource field surveys (BLM Cultural Resource Inventory # CA-160-C/V-963) were conducted for the proposed project location and any other areas which may be indirectly

