



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Central California District

For Immediate Release: Dec. 12, 2019

CA-CC-19-53

Contact: Serena Baker, 916-941-3146; sbaker@blm.gov

BLM Bakersfield Field Office issues decision on supplemental environmental analysis

Supporting approximately 3,500 jobs and \$200 million in economic benefit annually within the Bakersfield Field Office planning area

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released its decision for the Bakersfield Field Office Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing the potential effects of hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas resources on public lands and Federal minerals within the planning area. The BLM’s analysis shows that there are no adverse environmental impacts due to hydraulic fracturing that cannot be alleviated. This Supplemental EIS supports the decisions made within the 2014 Bakersfield Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) and does not make any new public lands or Federal minerals available to oil and gas development.

The Bakersfield Field Office planning area includes eastern Fresno, western Kern, Kings, Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura counties.

This effort supports the Administration’s priority of promoting environmentally responsible energy development, while creating jobs and providing economic opportunities for local communities – [Executive Order 13783: Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth](#) and [Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence](#).

The Supplemental EIS analyzes air and atmospheric values, water quality and quantity, cultural resources and Native American values, livestock grazing, biological resources, mineral resources, seismicity, visual resources, and social and economic resources. No decisions made by this analysis affect valid existing rights or the authority of private landowners or other surface management agencies.

The BLM incorporated into the final environmental review the results of independent, comprehensive, peer-reviewed studies done by the California Council on Science and Technology and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on hydraulic fracturing and well stimulation in California, as well as the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department’s Environmental Impact Report on oil and gas permitting.

The decision for the Bakersfield RMP fulfills the BLM’s commitment to a May 2017, court order to prepare additional environmental analysis of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing. In settlement of the litigation, the BLM agreed to not hold any new oil and gas lease sales within the Bakersfield Field Office decision area until the final analysis is completed and a decision is issued.

The 2014 Bakersfield RMP and Record of Decision determined areas available for oil and gas development on approximately 1.2 million acres of Federal minerals, which includes roughly 400,000 surface acres of BLM-managed public land. The 2014 Bakersfield RMP and ROD made approximately one million acres available to oil and gas leasing with stipulations that would be applied to protect resources. No new stipulations were

identified in the environmental analysis. No leases are issued, and no permits to drill are approved with the signing of this decision. If proposed, new leases and/or requests for permits to drill and their potential impacts would be addressed at the site or project-specific level in a subsequent tiered environmental analysis.

Oil and gas development on BLM-managed public lands within the Bakersfield Field Office planning area generate approximately 3,500 jobs and more than \$200 million in economic benefit annually. The BLM collects a 12.5% royalty on every barrel of oil and gas produced on Federal minerals, which ranges between \$65-90 million per year. The BLM shares with California roughly 50% of oil and gas royalties collected, with the remaining 50% in oil and gas royalties being paid to the United States Treasury. Public lands in California contribute to less than 10% of the total oil and gas activity in the state.

More information is available on the project website: <https://go.usa.gov/xE3Nw>.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.

###

Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308