

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Central Coast Field Office
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In Reply Refer to
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Scott Morgan
State Clearing House Director
Deputy Director, Administration
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requests a Governor's consistency review of the Central Coast Field Office (CCFO) Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development (Enclosure 1). The Proposed RMPA/FEIS was prepared by the BLM in consultation with various government agencies and organizations, taking into account public comments received during the planning effort.

The Proposed RMPA/FEIS specifies which BLM-managed public lands or subsurface Federal mineral estate would be open to future oil and gas leasing and the stipulations or restrictions that would be applied to protect resources. The land-use management decisions resulting from this planning effort would affect approximately 800,000 acres of Federal mineral estate managed by the CCFO. The Proposed RMPA and Final EIS also describes and analyzes implementation-level decisions regarding 14 leases in Monterey County and San Benito County. The Proposed RMPA/Final EIS does not authorize surface disturbance, which would be subject to additional environmental reviews for project-level activities.

To assist the agency decision maker and the public in focusing on appropriate solutions to planning issues, the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS considers six alternative approaches to oil and gas leasing and development, including a new alternative (Alternative F) that was not included in the Draft RMPA/Draft EIS (reference SCH# 2017014001) and is now identified as the agency-preferred alternative.

Under the new agency-preferred alternative, Alternative F, approximately 683,000 acres of Federal minerals would be open to oil and gas leasing with Controlled Surface Use (CSU) stipulations; 42,400 acres of Federal minerals would be open to leasing with No Surface Occupancy stipulations, particularly in the Ciervo Panoche Natural Area and Joaquin Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); and 67,500 acres of Federal minerals would be closed to leasing

including the Clear Creek Serpentine ACEC, designated wilderness area, wilderness study areas, and national monuments.

Under the preferred alternative, the BLM would also make the implementation decision to issue 14 oil and gas leases in Monterey County and San Benito County with CSU stipulations. The BLM predicts up to 37 new oil and gas wells to be drilled during the next 20 years on Federal minerals, primarily located in Fresno, Monterey and San Benito counties. Information about this planning effort, along with the agency preferred alternative is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/jhsrwrp>.

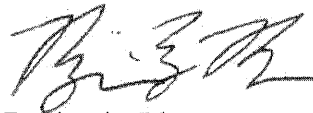
The BLM prepared the Proposed RMPA/FEIS in conformance with applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. It is also consistent with BLM's authority and policy guidance for making a decision related to the agency-preferred alternative derived from Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 USC §1701 et. seq.) and the regulations in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600. It incorporates information received from the consulting agencies under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Title 43 CFR, Subpart 1610.3-2(e), requires a 60-day period for Governor's review at this point in our planning process. The purpose of the review is to identify inconsistencies with State and local plans. Since the Proposed RMPA/Final EIS includes a new agency-preferred alternative, BLM requests you notify California government agencies listed on the attached State Clearinghouse Form during the 60-day consistency review period.

Should any inconsistencies be identified during this review period, please provide agency comments and recommendations in writing to the BLM at the above listed address. If the BLM does not hear from you within 60 days from the date of this letter, in accordance with the regulations, the BLM will presume the RMPA to be consistent with State and local plans, programs, and policies.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this planning effort. If additional information is needed, please contact Sky Murphy, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at smurphy@blm.gov or by phone at 831-582-2231.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Blom
Central Coast Field Manager

Enclosure

1. Compact Disk - Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development
2. Notice of Completion [SCH#2017014001]