

State of California
Natural Resources Agency / Department of Conservation
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**Notice of Intent
to use a Finding of No Significant Impact
in lieu of a Negative Declaration**

California Environmental Quality Act

Date August 11, 2021

To: Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Lead Agency
Department of Conservation
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
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Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Larry Kleinecke, (916) 445-9686

Project Title: CREH 3 Wells 06032021
Project Applicant: California Resources Elk Hills, LLC (CRC)
Project Location: Buena Vista Oilfield, Kern County

County: Kern
Section: 1
Township: 32S
Range: 23E Baseline: MDBM

The U.S. Department of the Interior/Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared an Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above-named project, which identifies and evaluates the potential for significant environmental impacts from the proposed project. The BLM completed its review of the FONSI and signed a Record of Decision on May 14, 2021 approving the proposed project.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (PRC §21000, *et seq.*) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000, *et seq.*), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project, while the BLM is the NEPA lead agency. The Division has reviewed BLM's approved FONSI (DOI-BLM-CA-CO60-2021-0049-EA) and finds that it meets the requirements of CEQA. BLM found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, the Division intends to use the FONSI rather than preparing a Negative Declaration for this project.

Project Description: The Division received three (3) Notices of Intention to Drill (NOIs) from the Applicant to conduct well operations on mineral and surface estates administered by the BLM Bakersfield Field Office within the Buena Vista Oilfield in Kern County. The proposed project consists of permitting grading of new and existing well pad locations, and installation of associated power poles and pipelines to accommodate the drilling of 3 new wells: 6-7H-6D, 4-6H-6D, and 8-8H-26B.

The proposed project site is not present on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code including, but not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property and hazardous waste disposal sites, and the information in the *Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement* required under subdivision (f) of that section.

Details on well locations can be found on the Division's website at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/calgem/Pages/Wellfinder.aspx>

Public Review Period: BLM held a 30-day public review period for the proposed project, which began on May 14, 2021 and ended on June 15, 2021. BLM posts Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) in the front lobby of their Bakersfield Field Office located at 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA. Additionally, BLM lists the environmental documents prepared for proposed projects on the California BLM NEPA webpage (see link below) to notify the public of the proposed projects and to invite any comments from those interested.

Available Documents: The APDs, approved FONSI, DR, and any supporting documents are available for review on BLM's website at: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do