

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

Project Title: CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC
Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department **Contact Person:** Cindi Hoover
Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100 **Phone:** (661) 862-8629
City: Bakersfield **Zip:** 93301 **County:** Kern

Project Location: County: Kern City/Nearest Community: City of Taft, Community of Lost Hills
Cross Streets: Lerdo Highway and State Highway 33 Zip Code: 93249 / 93251
Lat. / Long.: 35.49980° N, -119.75522° W (NAD 83) Total Acres: 13,229
Assessor's Parcel No.: Multi Section: Multi Twp.: Multi Range: Multi Base: SBB&M
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-33 Waterways: N/A
Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Educational _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Recreational _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Wildlife
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Growth Inducing
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Land Use
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Cumulative Effects
 Other GHG, Wildfire, Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Oil and Gas Exploration and Production / A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture, NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 acre min) / 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum), 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture – Flood Hazard Overlay), 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture – Flood Hazard Overlay), 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum – Flood Hazard Overlay).

Project Description: The CarbonFrontier CCS Project, as proposed by AERA Energy, LLC would develop an approximate 13,229 acre carbon capture and sequestration field, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). The proposed project would capture CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field and transport it by pipeline to dedicated Class VI injection wells within the North Belridge oil field to be injected into identified geologically confined reservoirs for storage. The underground CCS formation is a depleted oil and gas reservoir with saline formation water. The CO₂ distribution pipelines, and associated infrastructure would be new construction.

Implementation of the proposed project includes the following requests:

- Zone Classification Change (ZCC) from A-1 (limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737 acres and from NR (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres.
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a CCS facility, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of CO₂ on approximately 13,229 acres. CCS has been determined to be a storage operation under the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.08.085 and Section 19.06.020. Therefore, CCS in either existing formation or tanks is an allowed use with a CUP in the following districts:
 - A District (Exclusive Agriculture)
 - M-2 District (Medium Industrial)
 - M-3 District (Heavy Industrial)

Implementation of the proposed project would also require permits from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to nine (9) Class VI injection wells in compliance with the UIC Program for Class VI injection wells (40 CFR 146.81 et seq.).

The proposed project area has been identified as a location suitable for such storage and a potential to contribute to California's goals for carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing industrial uses to no net contribution and potentially supporting direct removal of CO₂ from the air. California executive order B-55-18 mandates that the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/2019/12/19/getting-to-neutral/>).

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency, please denote that with an "S".

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public-School Construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CalFire | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>6</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>Central</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>Fresno</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 9, 2023 Ending Date July 10, 2023

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ */s/* _____ **Date:** 6/9/2023
Cindi Hoover, Division Chief