



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED Hidden Canyon Test Well Production Plan Case No. 22PPP-00000-00001

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: West Bay Exploration Company proposes to grade one new 1-acre well pad, to drill one new test well for oil and gas exploration. No gas production is proposed as a part of the project.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located at 7400 Highway 166 in Cuyama, within the northeastern corner of APN 147-020-045, south of the North Fork Vineyard on School House Canyon Road, Fifth Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of 23NGD-00004. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on October 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: West bay Exploration is requesting approval of a production plan (Case No 22PPP-00000-00001) to grade one new well pad, approximately 0.996 acres in size (140' x 310'), to drill one new test well for oil and gas exploration off of School House Canyon Rd in New Cuyama in Santa Barbara County. The surface elevation is 1,983.8 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) and the Target Depth is approximately 11,000 feet below ground level. No permanent facilities are proposed besides the single wellhead following drilling operations. The project would be implemented in two phases; Well Drilling and Well Plugging and Abandonment. Preparation and grading of the drill site would take approximately 5 days to complete. During site preparation activities the proposed project site would be graded, watered and compacted to establish a level and solid foundation for the drilling rig. Material would be balanced onsite. Drilling of the Well would last approximately 14 days. Non-hazardous waste (primarily drilling mud and cuttings) would be a product of this phase and it would be transported to E & P Waste. Grading includes 4,521 cubic yards of cut and 5,482 cubic yards of fill to account for the 25% compaction factor for shrinkage over a 10% grade. Therefore 961 cubic yards would be imported. Once dug, the well would be abandoned. No gas production is proposed as a part of the project. There are no permanent facilities proposed except for the single wellhead following successful drilling operations. One daily operator site visit would occur to ensure compliance with Code and well safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Negative Declaration (ND) 23NGD-00004) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the

Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a ND affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The ND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Air Quality, Biological Resources, Fire Protection, Geologic Processes, Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset, Noise, and Water Resources**. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the draft ND is not attached, the draft ND may be obtained and all documents incorporated by reference in the ND may be reviewed at P&D offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and on the P&D website at [[Active Projects | Powered by Box](#)].

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Katie Nall, at 123 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara, nallk@countyofsb.org, or 805-884-8050 prior to the close of public comment on October 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the hearing, please contact Hearing Support Staff (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.