



# County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED Cal Lease Soil Remediation Project Case No. 22LUP-00000-00517**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** California Resources Corporation proposes to implement the actions described in the Remedial Action Work Plan dated July 2021 to remove approximately 4,306 cubic yards of hydrocarbon impacted soil from three former diluent pipeline areas and recontour three well pads to match existing topography.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located at 6525 Dominion Road, APNs 129-180-018 & 129-180-038, near the City of Santa Maria, in the Fourth 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-00003. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on December 13, 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:** The project is to implement the actions described in the Remedial Action Work Plan dated July 2021, in parts of the CAL Lease in the North Cat Canyon Oil Field. The site contains inactive and abandoned oil wells with elevated concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and associated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil and perched water surrounding former diluent pipelines in three areas: A5-01, B5-02/B5-03, and B6-03. The project proposes excavation and disposal of impacted soil at these three locations, confirmation soil sampling to confirm achievement of the site-specific cleanup goals, backfilling of the excavation areas with approximately 4,306 cubic yards of imported clean fill, and restoration of the disturbed areas. Excavated soil will be stockpiled on plastic sheeting in the staging areas until disposal offsite. Tree exclusion zones depth exclusion zones are proposed to protect the riparian and oak tree habitat and reduce excavation instability.

Once the excavations are backfilled with clean earth material, well pads associated with previously abandoned wells 40, 50, and 89 and all disturbed areas will be recontoured and erosion and sediment controls will be applied, including hydromulch and dispersal of native seeds. Additionally, at least one groundwater monitoring well will be installed at each of the three remediation areas between 7.5 and 33 feet deep to monitor constituents are stable or decreasing. Once groundwater monitoring is complete, the wells will be abandoned.

Access to the work areas will be provided by the existing oilfield and Ag roads. Approximately 200 truck trips are expected to be made for export soil and 200 truck trips for import soil. There would be an average of about 10 truck trips per day, with a peak of about 50 truck trips per day.

The export material would be disposed of as Non-Hazardous Hydrocarbon Impacted Soil at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill, approximately 10 miles north. The property is a 537.84-acre parcel zoned AG-II-100 and shown as Assessor's Parcel Numbers 129-180-018 & 129-180-038, Santa Maria Valley Area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS:** P&D has prepared a Draft Negative Declaration (ND) (23NGD-00005) 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, Cultural Resources, Geologic Processes, Hazardous Materials/Risk of Upset, and Noise.** 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 [<https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/k04ychmxlsz0o8h850t7bqwk1lkn1yb9>].

**HOW TO COMMENT:** Please provide comments to the project planner, Katie Nall, at 123 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara, [nallk@countyofsb.org](mailto:nallk@countyofsb.org), or 805-884-8050 prior to the close of public comment on December 15, 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.