

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
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Bakersfield, California 93301
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July 1, 2025

Sarah Mathews, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
35126 McMurtrey Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93308

**RE: Kern Comments on Oil and Gas Leasing and Development on Public Lands – BLM
Bakersfield Field Office Supplemental EIS and RMP Amendment**

Dear Ms. Mathews,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for continued oil and gas leasing and responsible development on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Bakersfield Field Office planning area.

Kern County is home to some of the most productive oil fields in the nation and plays a critical role in supporting California's energy needs and economic stability. The BLM's decision to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consider amendments to the 2014 Resource Management Plan (RMP), including updates to the 2019 analysis on hydraulic fracturing, presents an important opportunity to reaffirm the responsible management and development of federal mineral resources in our region.

We appreciate the BLM's commitment to public involvement, transparency, and adherence to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and other governing laws. Coordination with local jurisdictions like ours is essential to achieving balanced outcomes that protect environmental resources while sustaining vital economic activity.

Oil and gas development continues to be a cornerstone of Kern County's economy, generating high-wage jobs, essential tax revenues, and energy products that benefit the entire state. Maintaining leasing availability across roughly 400,000 acres of public land and 450,000 acres of Federal mineral estate is critical to ensuring continued investment and innovation in energy production, including the use of advanced technologies to reduce environmental impacts.

We recognize the need to assess updated scientific, legal, and technical information as part of this process. At the same time, we urge the BLM to ensure that any future amendments to the RMP reflect the importance of energy independence, economic resilience, and the significant role our county plays in meeting California's energy demand.

Kern County stands ready to engage throughout this process and respectfully requests that the BLM continue to support leasing and development opportunities that align with both environmental protection and economic sustainability. Thank you for your consideration and for providing an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP' or 'L Perez', written in a cursive style.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: U.S. Department of the Interior
Honorable Members, Kern Congressional Delegation
Lorelei Oviatt, Director Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
Suzanne Noble, Western States Petroleum Association
Jake Lopez, California Independent Petroleum Association
Townsend Public Affairs