

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters District 1
Chris Parlier..... District 2
Jeff Flores..... District 3
David Couch District 4
Leticia Perez District 5



NANCY ANDERSON

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

September 10, 2025

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
Chair, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
1020 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 237 (Grayson et al.), Oil, Gas, and Fuel Regulations: Kern County CEQA Exemptions and Fuel Market Stabilization – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Petrie-Norris,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for SB 237 (Grayson), which provides clarity and certainty in the permitting of oil and gas projects in unincorporated Kern County.

SB 237 recognizes the legal sufficiency of Kern County's Oil and Gas Zoning Ordinance (Title 19, 2025-A) and its certified Final Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (FSSREIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). By affirming the sufficiency of this environmental analysis, SB 237 ensures Kern County and the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) can issue permits with regulatory certainty, free from endless litigation. This legislation does not exempt Kern County from CEQA; rather, it upholds a comprehensive environmental document that reflects over a decade of public process and judicial review.

Importantly, SB 237 represents a balanced framework and provides stability for industry and labor while safeguarding community health and the environment. This bill, the Kern County locally adopted ordinance, along with the adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) represents a comprehensive pathway for oil and gas permitting necessary to meet the demands of all California residents while also protecting the environment and surrounding land uses through implementation of enhanced environmental protections.

Kern County remains at the center of California's energy future:

- Producing 80% of California's in-state oil supply
- Hosting 70% of the state's wind and solar infrastructure
- Supporting 80% of in-state battery storage capacity

Over the past 15 years, Kern has attracted \$89 billion in private energy investment by balancing clean energy leadership with locally managed, environmentally responsible permitting. SB 237 strengthens this balanced approach, supporting in-state oil production while California advances its transition to clean energy.

We urge your support for SB 237 as a critical component of California's energy strategy. This legislation will protect consumers from supply disruptions, provide investor confidence in the state's energy sector, and ensure Kern County continues to lead with both environmental responsibility and energy reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
The Honorable Tim Grayson, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
California Energy Commission
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange