

#### **4.11 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AREAS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

The following Section addresses the environmental resources that have been eliminated from further consideration and do not warrant detailed discussion based upon the nature of the Project and/or its location.

##### **4.11.1 Agricultural Resources**

The Project site is currently zoned for agricultural uses (AG-II-100 and AC). The Project site has historically been used concurrently for oil production and agricultural grazing land and is located adjacent to other land uses of similar nature. The topography of the site is predominantly hilly and consists of scattered oak woodland and coastal scrub and grassland communities.

The Cat Canyon Oil Field is designated as “Other Lands” under the State Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, and can be further classified under the Rural Land Mapping project as “Vacant or Disturbed Land.” The Project site does not contain any prime farmland or any areas identified as farmland of State or Local importance. The Project will not impair the existing use of the land. There are two parcels (APNs 129-210-017 and 101-050-042) that are currently under Agricultural Preserve Contract (No. 77AP019). The proposed oil and gas production activities on the subject parcels would be limited to fresh water supply wells to be used for domestic, conservation, and agricultural use, as well as a conservation area for oak tree replanting and habitat enhancement.

The proposed development is consistent with the adjacent land uses and historic use of the Project site. Construction of the new facilities requires permanent conversion of lands in support of the processing facilities, well pads, roadways, and supporting infrastructure; however, much of the land to be developed has been previously disturbed during historic development and operations of the field. Additionally, none of the land to be permanently converted is designated as agricultural land of prime or significant importance or under Williamson Act contract.

Further, as discussed above, construction and operation of the facility can occur simultaneously and is compatible with existing grazing agricultural land uses. Aera plans to continue limited grazing on the property during the Project operations. As such, the Project will not significantly impact agricultural resources and does not warrant further discussion.

##### **4.11.2 Energy and Mineral Resources**

The Project is located within the east area of the State-designated Cat Canyon Oil Field. The Project site was formerly developed for oil production. During the proposed redevelopment, construction and drilling equipment will require use of energy for operations of the engines; however, these engines are in accordance with the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program and will comply with program requirements including engine tier specifications as

further discussed within Section 4.1 - Air Quality. During operations, electricity will be supplied by a gas line operated by Southern California Gas as well as an onsite electrical substation operated by Aera, which ties into Pacific Gas and Electric Company's electric power distribution system.

The Project will not result in a substantial increase in energy demand or cause the need for development of new sources of energy. The Project is intended to develop remaining recoverable oil resources within this portion of the Cat Canyon Oil Field, reducing California's reliance on imported oil by providing in-state supplies. No significant impact to energy and mineral resources will result from the construction and operation of the Project.

#### **4.11.3 Land Use**

The Project is within a rural location approximately five miles south of the community of Sisquoc. The majority of the Project area is zoned for agricultural uses (AG-II-100). The operation of oil wells on the Project site is an allowed use in the AG-II-100 zone district and is consistent with the existing and anticipated development in this region. The proposed well pad locations are primarily sited within areas previously disturbed for this purpose. The proposed oil operations will be confined to the Project site. The proposed access and roadway improvements are intended to support the Project development, and will not provide a substantial opportunity for new development that will lead to any population growth or a need for additional public services. Additionally, there will be no impact to local or regional housing. Project-related changes to existing land uses within or surrounding the Project area with respect to supporting infrastructure (gas pipeline) will be specifically coordinated through easements and private land use agreements. The Project will not conflict with any adopted airport safety zones. The proposed development and operation of the Project is consistent with existing and historical development in this region of the county. No significant impacts to land use will result from the construction and operation of the Project.

#### **4.11.4 Public Services**

Public services include: fire protection (residential), police protection, schools, parks and other public facilities. As indicated in Section 4.11.3 - Land Use, no new significant population will be introduced to the area as a result of the Project. Therefore, no new demand for schools, parks or other population-dependent public service(s) are expected to result from the Project.

In the event of a Project-related fire, vandalism or accident, a call for service to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol or other public service provider may be necessary. Please refer to Section 4.7 – Fire Protection, for additional detail regarding fire prevention and response. However, the need for services, if any, is expected to be low on an annual basis. Therefore, potential impacts to public services will be less than significant.

#### **4.11.5 Utilities and Service Systems**

Utilities and service systems include: wastewater collection, treatment and disposal; potable water supply, treatment and distribution; stormwater drainage facilities, and solid waste collection and disposal facilities.

The Project will result in an increase in impermeable surface area onsite. However, surface water runoff will be minimized through Project design and implementation of an approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program through the Regional Water Quality Control Board as further discussed in Section 4.3 - Water Resources, Uses, and Flooding. Freshwater uses, limited to service to on-site buildings, will be provided by existing on-site water wells. Wastewater will be treated and disposed on-site via an on-site septic system with leach fields.

Solid waste generated by Project construction and operation will be recycled to the extent feasible, or disposed of at the Santa Maria Regional Landfill. The Project includes the development of crude oil production facilities, which do not produce substantial amounts of solid waste. Minimal amounts of waste in the form of scrap construction materials (i.e. piping, fencing, etc.) generated during routine maintenance activities is expected but this waste would not exceed the County's 40-ton significance threshold for cumulative waste generation. The utility and service system impacts of the Project are less than significant.

#### **4.11.6 Recreation**

The proposed development area is located entirely on private property and contains no public recreational uses such as trails, parks, etc. The Project site is not designated for recreational use. The Project site does not contain, nor is it adjacent to any public trail or bikeway. The re-introduction of oil wells on the Project site will not result in the introduction of additional residents on the subject property that would utilize recreational facilities in this area of the County. No impacts to recreation on the Project site or surrounding community are anticipated from the construction and operation of the Project.

In accordance with the County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan as it defines elements related to recreational resources; potential impacts to scenic highway corridors as well as archaeological and historic sites are further discussed in Sections 4.10 - Aesthetics and 4.6 - Cultural Resources, respectively.

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