



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

November 30, 2018

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED EAST CAT CANYON REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Case Nos. 18EIR-00000-00002, 15PPP-00000-00001, 15TRM-00000-00003
County EIR No. 18EIR-00000-00002, SCH# 2016101060

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Aera Energy, LLC (Aera) requests an Oil Drilling and Production Plan (15PPP-00000-00001) and Vesting Tentative Tract Map (15TRM-00000-00003) to construct and operate up to 296 wells, including oil/gas production wells, steam injection wells, observation wells, non-potable water production wells, water injection wells, and fresh groundwater wells. The proposed wells and associated equipment would be installed on both existing and new well and equipment pads. As part of the Project, the Applicant proposes to reconfigure 11 existing parcels into 12 new lots with an average lot size of 140-acres.

The proposed Project also includes new processing facilities and field systems. Processing facilities would include: 1) a production group station for bulk separation of produced gas and liquids, 2) a central processing facility for oil cleaning, water cleaning, water softening, oil storage, and oil sales, and 3) a steam generation site (up to six once-through steam generators rated at 85 million British thermal units/hour each) for production of saturated steam to be used for thermal enhanced oil recovery. An additional 62.5 million British thermal units/hour steam generator would be used to generate steam from the project's produced gas. No fresh water would be used to generate steam; only non-potable water would be used.

Field systems would include: 1) a production gathering network, 2) a steam distribution network and 3) electrical power distribution and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) networks. Project infrastructure would also include an office building, a multipurpose building, a warehouse and maintenance building, and a facility control building. A fresh water system with a 3,000 barrel tank and water distribution pipelines is planned for drinking water and ancillary purposes, including fire protection, lavatories, showers, equipment cleaning, dust control, and minor landscape irrigation. Utility connections for the Project include a 14-mile, 8-inch natural gas pipeline and associated facilities, capable of providing 13 million cubic feet per day of natural gas to the Project at a delivery pressure of 300 pounds per square inch gage.

The proposed Project would also require the importation of light crude via new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks for blending from Aera's Belridge Producing Complex in the South Belridge Oil Field near Bakersfield (140.4 miles), and exportation of produced, blended crude oil back to Aera's Belridge Producing Complex. Additionally, a permanent Conservation Easement, located in an area east of Long Canyon Road, where no surface oil production activities exist, is proposed. The Conservation Easement would be used to provide mitigation for unavoidable Project impacts, and to provide conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities for the Santa Barbara County community.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located within eastern portion of the state-designated Cat Canyon oilfield in northern Santa Barbara County approximately seven miles southeast of Santa Maria, south of the Community of Garey. Well drilling and operations would be located primarily in the southwestern portion of the project site and the proposed 14-mile, 8-inch natural gas pipeline and associated facilities would extend from Aera's project site, westward along Palmer Road, Dominion Road, and East Clark Avenue to Southern California Gas Company's Line 1010 at Divide Station, located along Graciosa Road.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in 18EIR-00000-00002 (SCH# 2016101060). You may comment by providing testimony in person at the **public hearing on Thursday, January 17, 2019**, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Betteravia Government Center, Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria and the Engineering Building and Planning Commission Hearing Room, 123 E. Anapamu Street (via teleconference), and/or by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the **close of public comment on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (18EIR-00000-00002) pursuant to requirements 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 has prepared an EIR for the proposed project due to the potential for significant adverse effects to result from project implementation. The EIR prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Potentially significant and unavoidable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Biological Resources, Surface/Groundwater Resources and Land Use**. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. Such reevaluation would 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 Environmental Impact Report is not attached, the Draft EIR may be obtained and documents referenced in the Draft EIR may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara and on our website at:

<http://sbcountyplanning.org/energy/projects/AERAEastCatCanyon.asp>.

Copies of the Draft EIR are also available for review at the Planning & Development North County office (624 W. Foster Road, Santa Maria), the Santa Maria Public Library (421 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria), the Santa Barbara Public Library (40 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara), and the UC Santa Barbara Davidson Library. The administrative draft of the DEIR and P&D's comments to the preparer are also available for review at the Santa Barbara P&D office.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Kathryn Lehr, at 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, email: klehr@countyofsb.org, phone: (805) 568-3560, fax: (805) 568-2030, prior to the **close of public comment on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**, or provide testimony at the public hearing on the date and time specified above. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as air quality, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.