



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Community and Economic Development
Department of Planning and Building

Norman L. Allinder, AICP
Director *NLE*

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PLANNING COMMISSION DATE: August 5, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: # 1

CUP	#2009-003	Request to conduct natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing
APN:	#043-072-001	Applicant/Owner: TTR Energy
CEQA	MND #2014-018	Mitigated Negative Declaration

REQUEST:

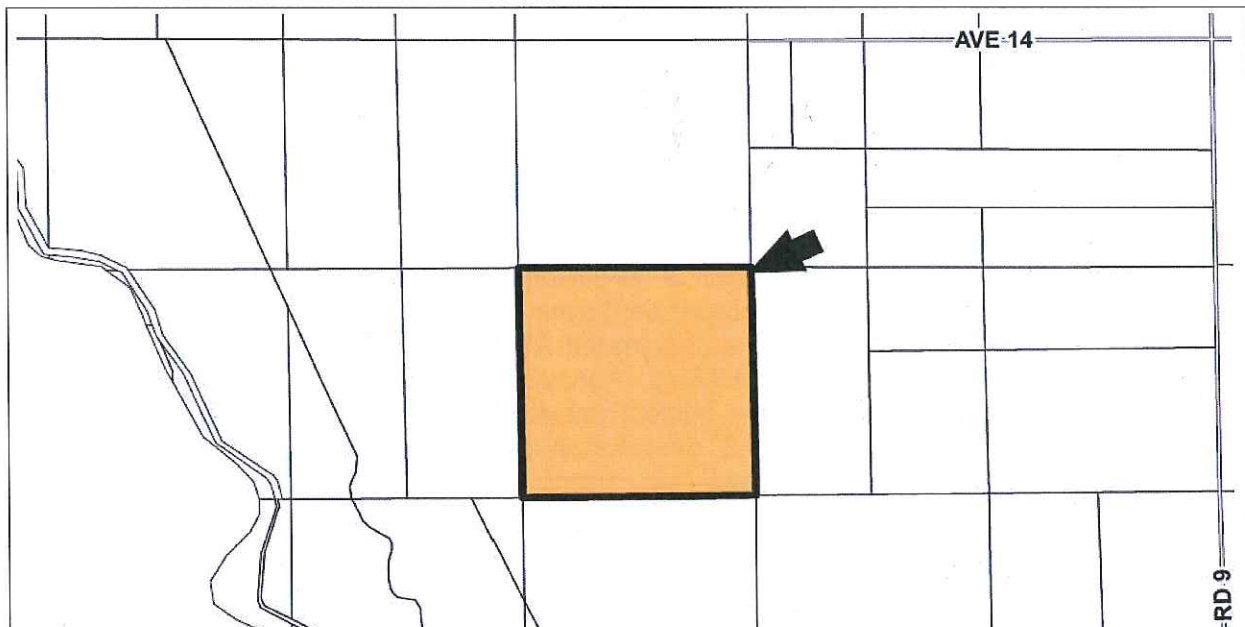
This application is a request for a Conditional Use Permit to conduct natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing.

LOCATION:

The project is located on the south side of Avenue 14, approximately 1.1 miles south of the terminus of Avenue 14, T11S, R14E, Section 34 (No Situs), Firebaugh.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND#2014-018) has been prepared and is subject to approval by the Planning Commission.



RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP 2009-003) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND 2014-018) subject to conditions and the mitigation monitoring program.

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:

SITE: AE (Agricultural Exclusive) Designation

SURROUNDING: AE (Agricultural Exclusive) Designation

ZONING:

SITE: ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive, 40-acres) District

SURROUNDING: ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive, 40-acres) District

LAND USE:

SITE: Agriculture

SURROUNDING: Rural Residential and Pistachio Orchards

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 640 acres

ACCESS: The property is accessed by Avenue 18 ½.

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ACTIONS:

None

ORDINANCES/POLICIES:

Madera County General Plan Policy Document (page 7) outlines the allowable uses within the AE (Agricultural Exclusive) designation

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposal is for a conditional use permit to conduct natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing during the drilling phase of the project. The project site consists of 640 acres.

ANALYSIS:

This proposal is a request for a conditional use permit to conduct natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing during the drilling phase of the project. The subject property is designated AE (Agricultural Exclusive) by the General Plan. The property is zoned ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive - 40 Acre) district. The properties surrounding the subject parcel are zoned ARE- 40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive - 40 Acre). The AE designation provides for agricultural uses, limited agricultural support service uses (e.g., barns, animal feed facilities, silos, stables, fruit stands, and feed stores), agriculturally-oriented services (e.g., wineries, cotton gins), timber production, mineral extraction, airstrips, public and commercial refuse disposal sites, recreational uses, public and quasi public uses, and similar and compatible uses. The natural gas facility falls into the same classification as mineral extractions. The proposed project would have a very low impact to the existing agricultural operations on the subject parcel. Operation of gas wells have historically been allowed with an approved conditional use permit.

The proposal is to utilize a portion of the property which is accessed by ranch roads off of Avenue 18 ½. TTR Energy proposes drilling an exploratory well, and if economic quantities of gas is found or can be produced, then an operating well is planned for. The subject parcel is currently a pistachio orchard, and according to the Operational Statement, a small section of the trees are to be removed for drilling purposes. The drilling phase of the project will last approximately two weeks with staffing onsite, 24 hours a day. Additional equipment will be used, such as a completion rig if natural gas is viable for production on site. The completion rig will be onsite for approximately one week during the drilling process. Once natural gas is being produced, an onsite pumper will be stationed to monitor the rig for two to three hours daily.

According to the Operational Statement, there are to be no visitors or customers visiting the site during operation. The project is anticipated to have 20 employees during the set-up and dismantling phases of the drilling rig. During the drilling operations 12 employees will be working an average of eight hours shifts, while for the first two weeks five engineers or supervisors will be staying in trailers around the drilling rig for monitoring purposes. During the installation of the production and pipeline equipment, three employees will be utilized, which will take approximately one week to complete. The project calls for 15 parking spaces to be provided for employees and service vehicles during the drilling operations.

The project is divided into different phases. During the setup and down phase six service vehicles, fifteen semi trucks and 12 employee pickup trucks and cars will be going in and out daily. During the drilling phase four 10-13 trucks will be used. The pipeline construction will utilize one large truck and four pickup trucks daily.

The proposed project is projected to use approximately 16,800 gallons of fresh water over a two week period. This water will be trucked from agricultural water wells onsite using vacuum truck tankers. Onsite wastewater is projected to amount to 16,800 gallons over a two week time period, with the wastewater being trucked to a waste disposal site at the end of the two weeks. Solid waste is expected to be generated in an approximate amount of 42 cubic yards every two weeks. The trash container onsite will be disposed of by a waste disposal company and transported to the local landfill. In accordance with the amended Operational Statement per correspondence with the Applicant found in "Exhibit H", the drilling operation will no longer use the sump pump method to store and extract the water and drilling fluids. TTR energy will now use a closed tank system to remove such fluids produced during drilling. If gas is found and production is deemed viable the drilling pad will be reduced to a smaller production pad of 150'-0"x150'-0".

Since a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been authorized for this project under the provisions of Section 711.4(c) of the Fish and Game Code, an "Environmental Document Application/Filing Fee" is required in conjunction with the processing of this project and the filing of the required Notice of Determination. In addition, a fifty dollar (\$50.00) "County Administrative Fee" must be included. A single check made payable to the County of Madera is required. The fee is to be submitted to the Planning Department.

State law (Section 21089(b) of the Public Resources Code) provides that project approval is not operative or final until these Fish and Game fees are paid.

The project was routed to all parties thought to be impacted from natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing. Comments were received from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Road, Fire, Engineering, and Environmental Health Departments.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The following findings of fact must be made by the Planning Commission to approve this conditional use permit application. Should the Planning Commission vote to approve the project, Staff recommends that the Planning Commission concur with the following in light of the proposed conditions of approval.

1. *The proposed project does not violate the spirit or intent of the zoning ordinance.* The property is zoned ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive -40 Acre) and is compatible with its General Plan Designation AE (Agriculture Exclusive) which permits mineral extraction with an approved Conditional Use Permit.
2. *The proposed project (request) is not contrary to the public health, safety or general welfare* in that the proposed exploratory gas well and potential drill rig for natural gas will not be detrimental to surrounding properties. The drilling phases and operations will adhere to all conditions of approval and mitigations as approved as they relate to the operations.
3. *The proposed project (request) is not hazardous, harmful, noxious, offensive, or a nuisance because of noise, dust, smoke, odor, glare, or similar factors.* The proposal must adhere to local and state health and building codes. In addition, any potential environmental impacts have been mitigated to a level of less than significant through mitigations measures as outlined by the mitigated negative declaration. Conditions of approval for the conditional use permit have been outlined to address these issues.
4. *The proposed project (request) will not for any reason cause a substantial, adverse effect upon the property values and general desirability of the neighborhood or of the County.* The proposal is consistent with uses allowed with a conditional use permit. The proposed use is not considered a use that will significantly impact adjacent properties or generate large amount of trips that could affect other properties.

WILLIAMSON ACT:

The subject property is under a Williamson Act contract and is, with the exception of the small portion on which the drilling pad and tower is to be located on, used for agricultural purposes. The drilling pad, rig and related support equipment will take only a small section of the property when viewed in light of the total acreage. Based on the lack of the impact to the agricultural operation, there will be no conflicts with the Williamson Act as a result of this project. Any increases to the footprint of the production pad and rig as noted in the Operational Statement will require an evaluation of the impact of the Williamson Act at the time of the footprint increase.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:

The Conditional Use Permit to conduct natural gas exploration, drilling, and temporary employee housing would be consistent with the existing zone district of ARE-40 (Agricultural Rural Exclusive-40 Acre) and General Plan designation of AE (Agriculture Exclusive) which allows mineral extraction.

RECOMMENDATION:

The analysis provided in this report supports approval of Mitigated Negative Declaration MND #2014-018 and Conditional Use Permit #2009-003 as presented subject to the following conditions and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

CONDITIONS: *(See attached Conditions of Approval/ Mitigation Monitoring Program)*

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Conditions of Approval
2. Exhibit A, General Plan Map
3. Exhibit B, Zoning Map
4. Exhibit C, Assessor's Parcel Map
5. Exhibit D1, Site Plan
6. Exhibit D2, Enlarged Site Plan
7. Exhibit D3, Additional Mapping
8. Exhibit D4, Site Photos
9. Exhibit D5, Production Pad
10. Exhibit E, Aerial Map
11. Exhibit F, Topographical Map
12. Exhibit G, Operational Statement/Findings of Fact
13. Exhibit H, Amended Operational Statement Correspondence
14. Exhibit I, Planning Department Comments
15. Exhibit J, Environmental Health Department Comments
16. Exhibit K, Fire Department Comments
17. Exhibit L, Road Department Comments
18. Exhibit M, Central Valley Regional Water Control Board Comments
19. Exhibit N, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Comments
20. Exhibit O, Department of Fish and Wildlife Comments
21. Exhibit P, CEQA Initial Study
22. Exhibit Q, Mitigated Negative Declaration #2014-018

CUP#2009-003
STAFF REPORT

August 5, 2014

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

PROJECT NAME: CUP #2009-003, TTR Energy

PROJECT LOCATION: south side of a Avenue 14, approximately 1.1 miles south of the terminus of Avenue 14, T11S, R14E, Section 34 (No situs), Firebaugh

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The application for conditional use permit is to allow an exploratory gas well and potential drilling for production.

LEAD AGENCY: Madera County

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE NUMBER: Brenton Gibbons, (559)675-7821

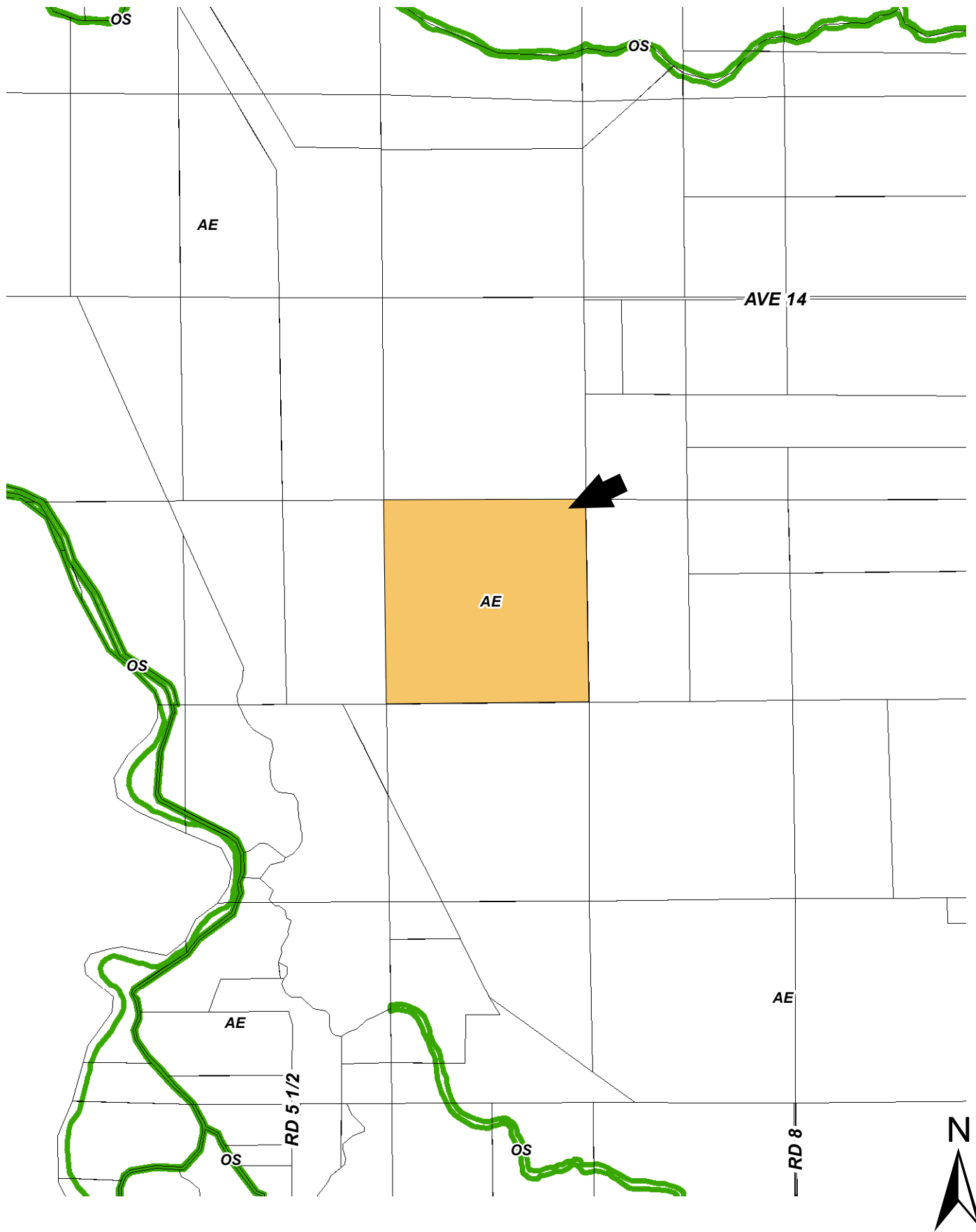
APPLICANT: Mary Halpin, TTR Energy

CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE NUMBER: (916)-214-5529

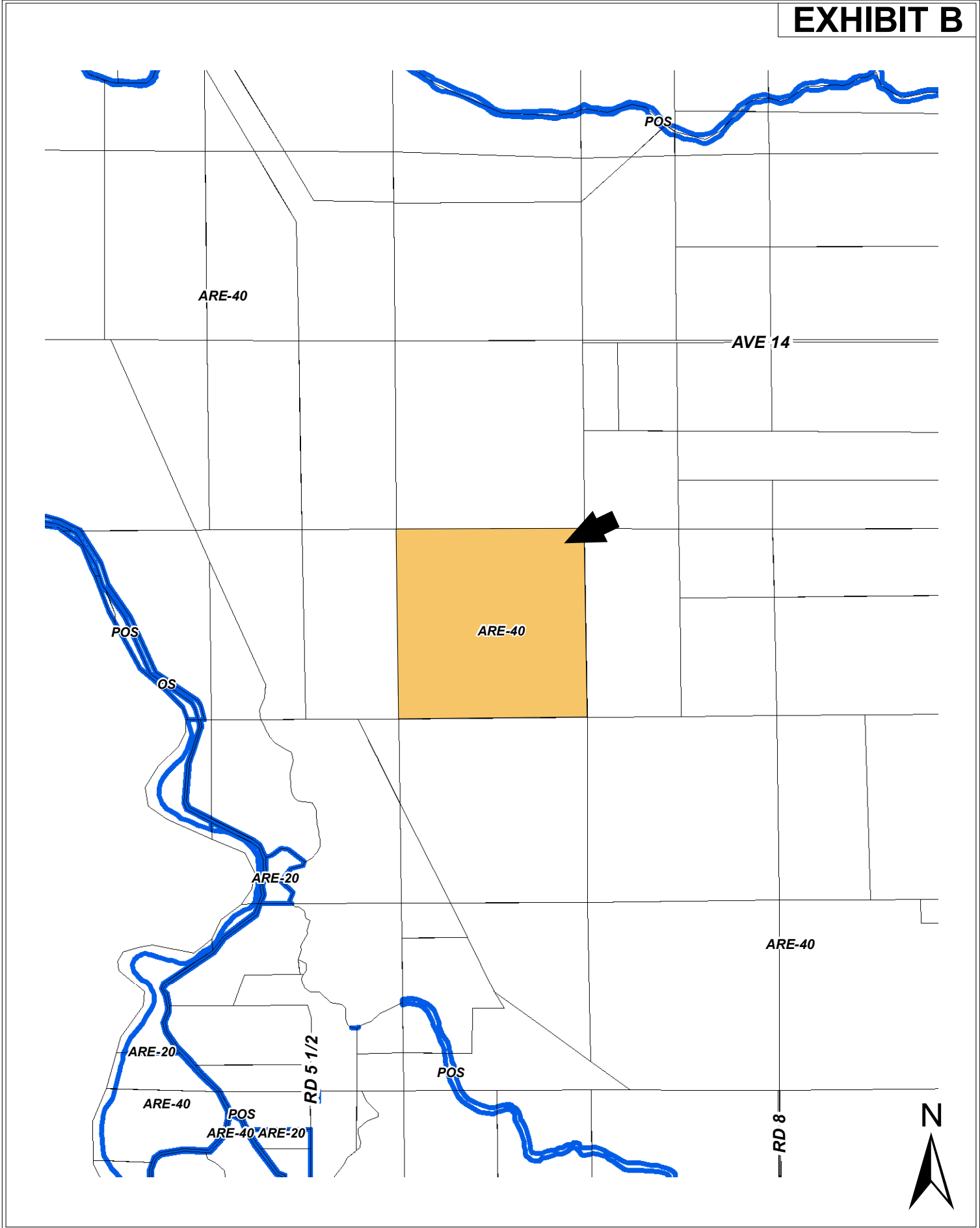
No.	Condition	Department/Agency	Verification of Compliance		
			Initials	Date	Remarks
Engineering					
1	The proposed project is located within FEMA Flood Plain (Flood Zone A). Any proposed structures (if any) associated with this project will need to be elevated to the appropriate elevation per Flood Zone A requirements.	Madera County Engineering Department			
2	Prior to the start of any construction, the applicant shall secure a Building Permit from the Building Department. All construction shall meet the most current standards and all applicable codes.	Madera County Engineering Department			
3	The applicant shall obtain a grading permit from the Engineering Department.	Madera County Engineering Department			
Environmental Health					
1	The applicant must comply with the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) rules and regulations.	Madera County Environmental Health Department			
2	The applicant must apply for a Well Construction Application (permit) from Madera County Environmental Health Department. During the application process for required County permits, a more detailed review of the proposed projects compliance with all current local, state & federal requirements will be reviewed for approval by this department prior to commencement of any work activities.	Madera County Environmental Health Department			
3	If your facility handles/store any hazardous materials on-site or generates hazardous waste you may be subject to permitting requirements through our department. As of January 2013 all Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) regulated businesses must submit their Hazardous Material Business Plan electronically into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) at www.cers.calepa.ca.gov .	Madera County Environmental Health Department			

No.	Condition	Department/Agency	Verification of Compliance		
			Initials	Date	Remarks
4	The construction and then ongoing operation must be done in a manner that shall not allow any type of public nuisance(s) to occur including but not limited to the following nuisance(s); Dust, Odor(s), Noise(s), Lighting, Vector(s) or Solid Waste refuse. This must be accomplished under accepted and approved Best Management Practices (BMP) and as required by the County General Plan, County Ordinances and any other related State and/or Federal jurisdiction.	Madera County Environmental Health Department			
Fire					
1	All access to the project site shall be minimum 10 feet wide, and an approved weather drivable surface. Turnouts shall be provided at midpoint for all access that exceeds 400 feet. Turnouts are 10 feet wide for 30 feet, with 25 foot tapers on each end.	Madera County Fire Department			
2	All roads accessing the project site shall be cleared of flammable vegetation over 18 inches in height to a distance of 20 feet from the centerline of the road. Vertical clearance of a minimum 15 feet is required as to provide an unobstructed access for fire apparatus. (CFC, Section 503.2.1 and CVC Section 22500.1)	Madera County Fire Department			
Planning					
1	The project shall operate in accordance with the operational statement and plans submitted for this project except as modified by the conditions of approval of this conditional use permit associated mitigation measures.	Madera County Planning Department			
2	All driveways and parking areas are to be constructed and maintained in a dust free manner.	Madera County Planning Department			
3	All lighting with this project is to be hooded and directed away from adjoining properties.	Madera County Planning Department			
4	If the production or exploratory well is to be abandoned, all equipment, including well and storage tanks, shall be removed from the production site, and the site restored to its normal contour and condition within six months of ceasing operation. If the well is to be abandoned, it shall be sealed in accordance to the Division of Oil and Gas requirements.	Madera County Planning Department			
5	Any dirt or construction debris associated with this project shall be covered or otherwise stabilized in such a fashion as to not create airborne dust emissions.	Madera County Planning Department			
6	The site shall be kept in a litter free condition.	Madera County Planning Department			
7	If project construction related activities (including but not limited to ground disturbing activities) result in the disturbing of subsurface cultural deposits, project related activities should be halted and a professional archaeologist brought in to determine the culture of the deposits.	Madera County Planning Department			
8	Noise levels generated with this project shall be in accordance with the Madera County Noise Element.	Madera County Planning Department			
Road					

No.	Condition	Department/A gency	Verification of Compliance		
			Initials	Date	Remarks



GENERAL PLAN MAP



ZONING MAP

CHOWCHILLA RANCH SUB. NO. 3

43 -07

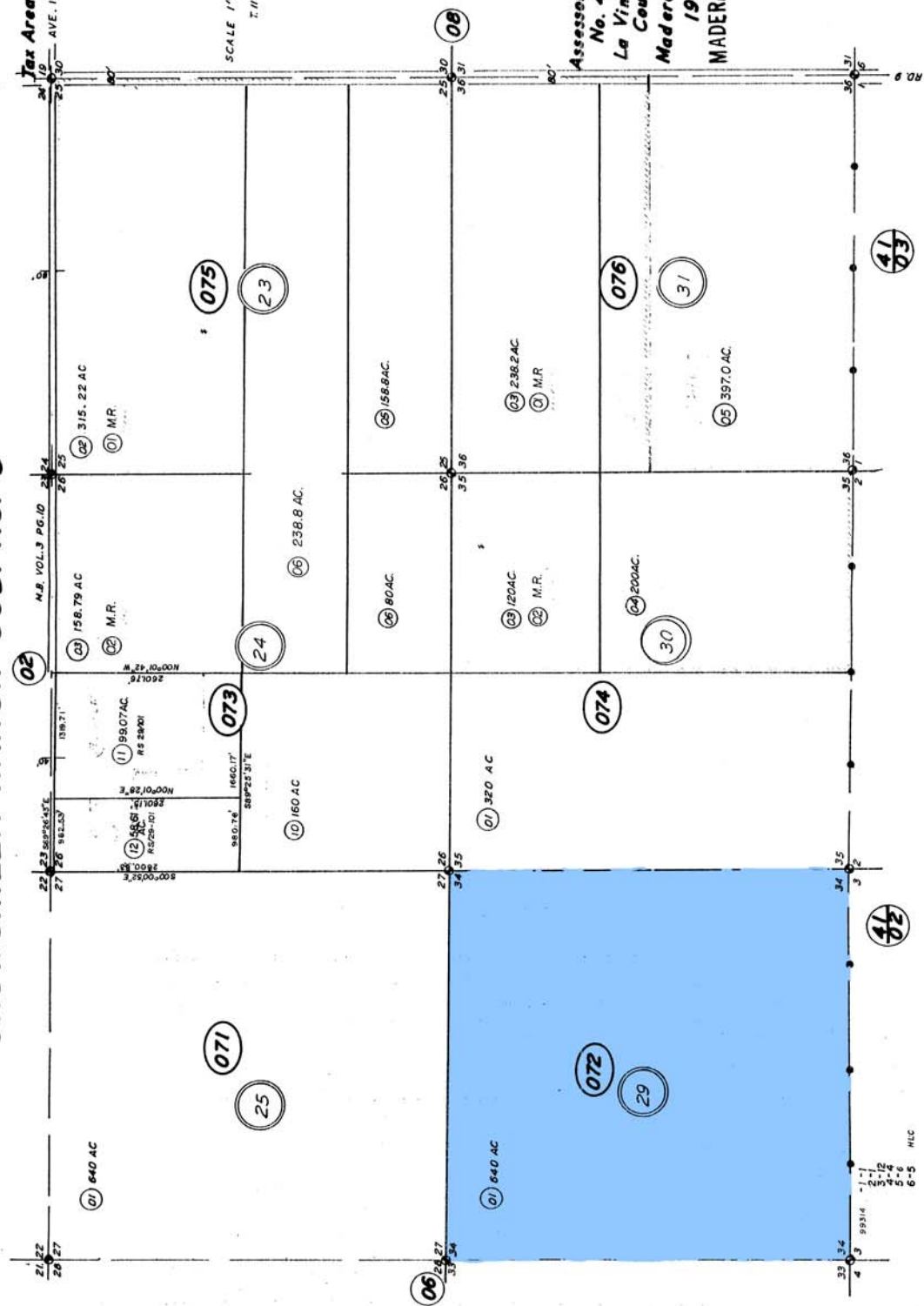
Tax Area No. 61 42

AVE. 14



SCALE 1" = 1200'
T.H.R. 14

Assessor's Map
No. 43-07
La Vina
Madera, Calif.
1959
MADERA UNIFIED





N

1" = 1320'

Site Map

TTR Energy

TT 1-34

Sec 34; T11S, R14E, MDB&M

1440' N & 1400' E from the SW/c Sec 34

APN: 043-072-001-000

Access: From 1-5

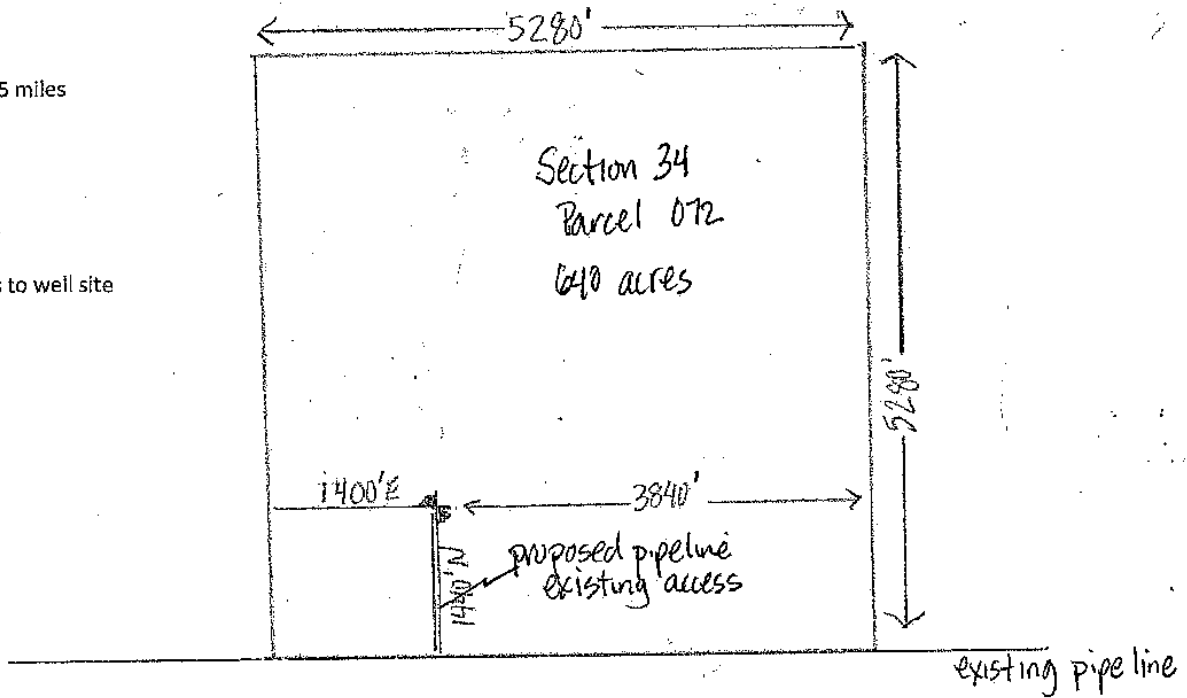
East on Hwy 152 for 25 miles

South on Road 4

East on Ave 18 1/2

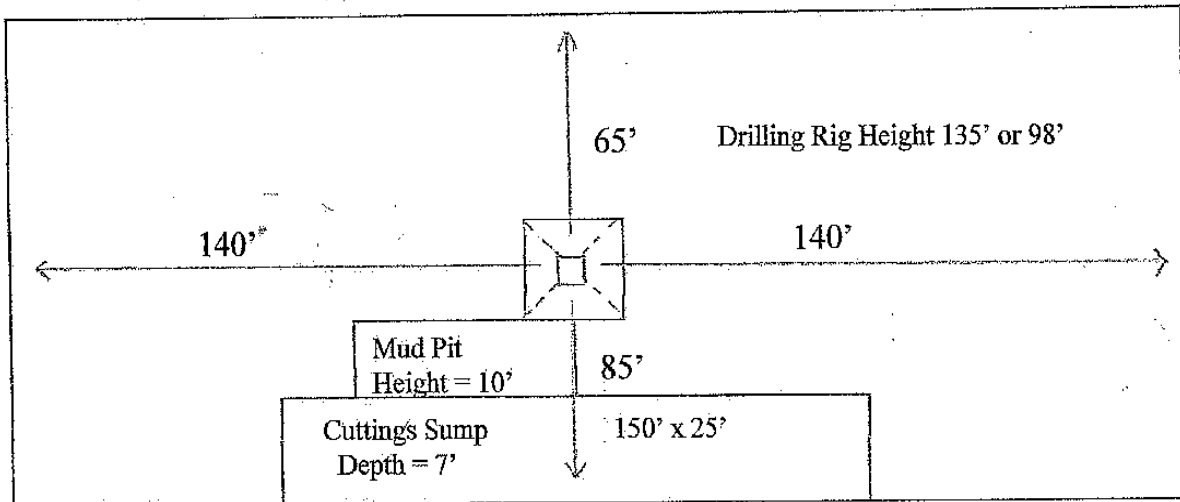
South @ 2nd Driveway

Ranch roads 4 3/4 miles to well site

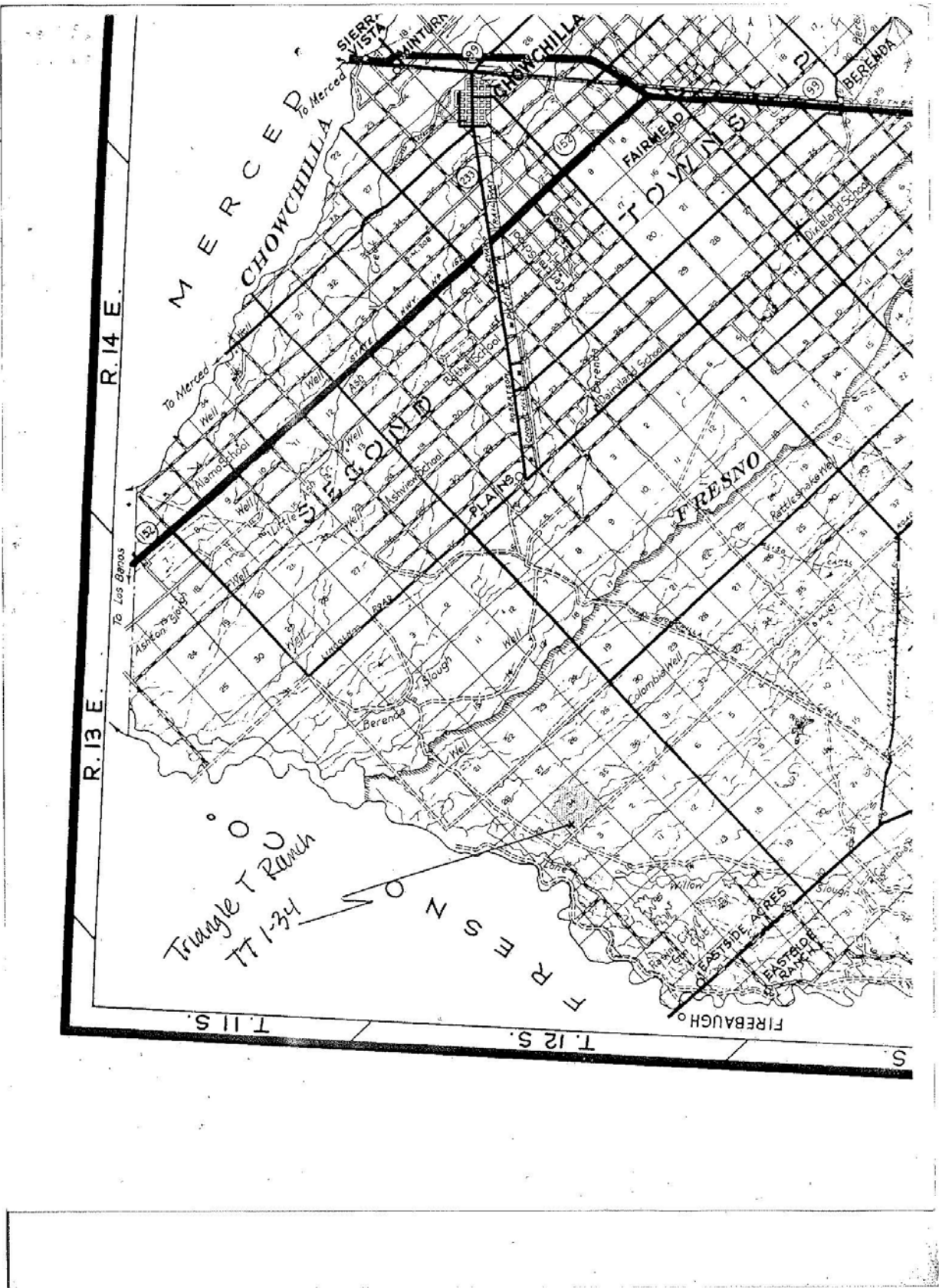


OPERATOR: TTR Energy
WELL NAME: TT 1-34
LOCATION: Sec 34, T11S, R14E, MDB&M

Scale 1" = 47'



Note: All sump materials, on job completion, will be removed to an approved dump.



ADDITIONAL MAPPING

Triangle T Ranch

APN 043-072-001

ZP 2009-002 Photographs taken 3/25/14 at the proposed well site. Pistachio orchard. Planted 2013.



Facing east from proposed well center



Facing North



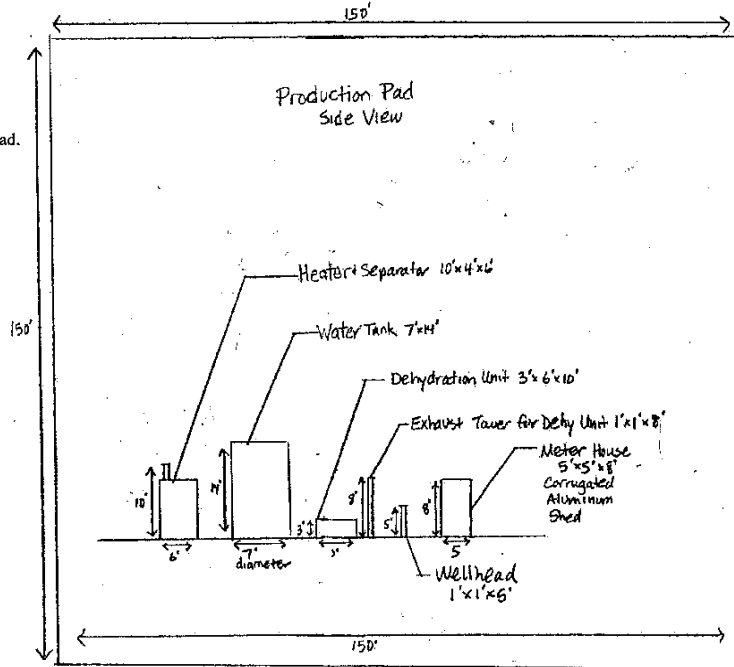
Facing South



Facing west

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

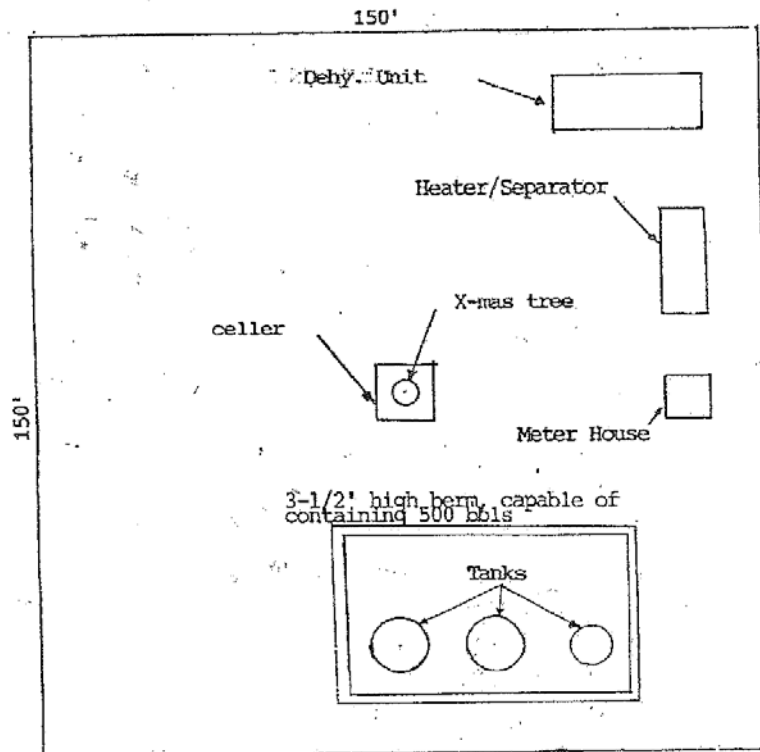
The production pad is a gravel pad. All the equipment placed on the pad is removed after the well has stopped producing. The site is then restored to its original condition.



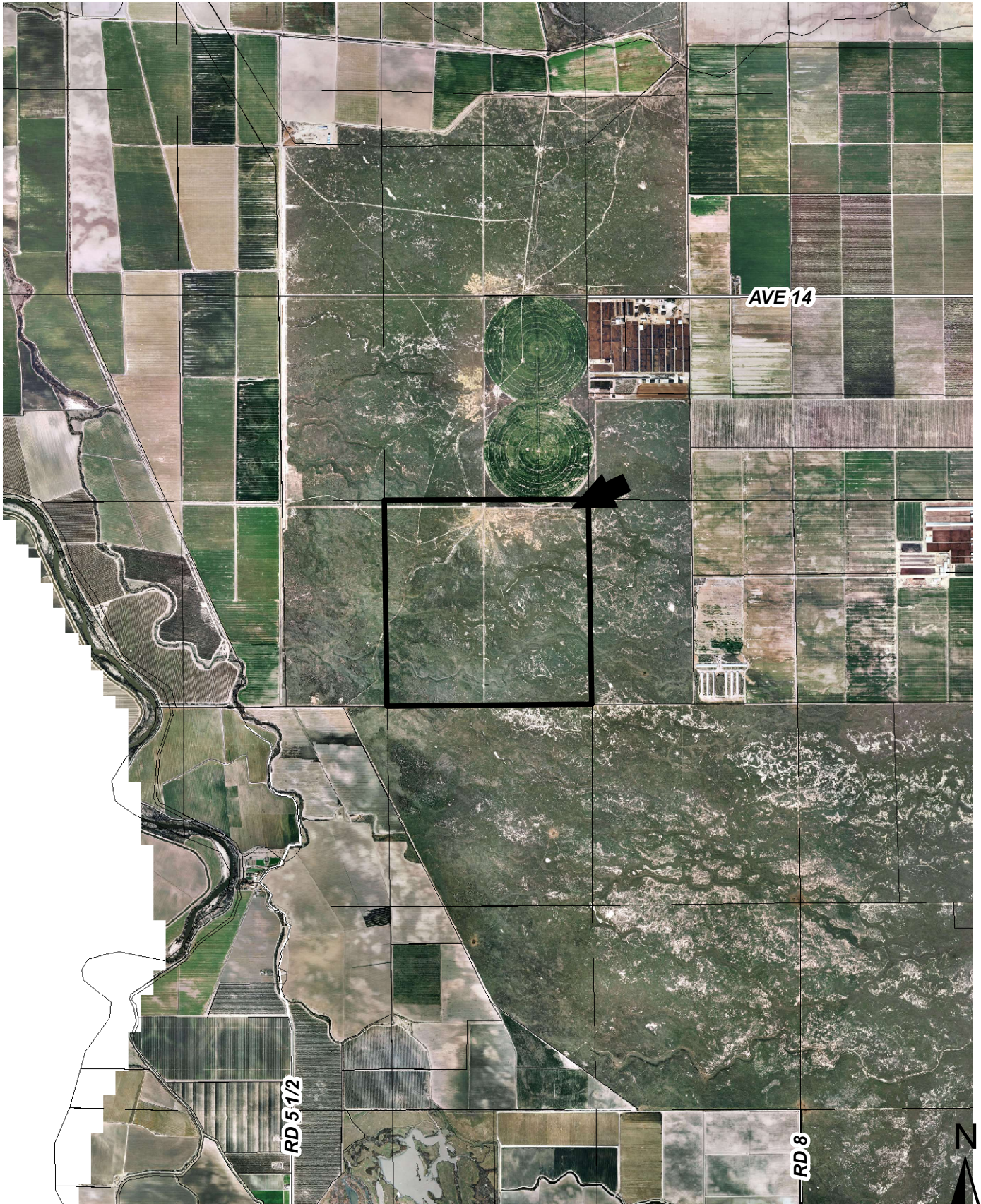
Production Pad Layout

Operator: TTR Energy
 TT 1-34
 Well Name: Sec 34, T 11S, R14E, MDB&M
 Location:

Scale: 1" = 30'

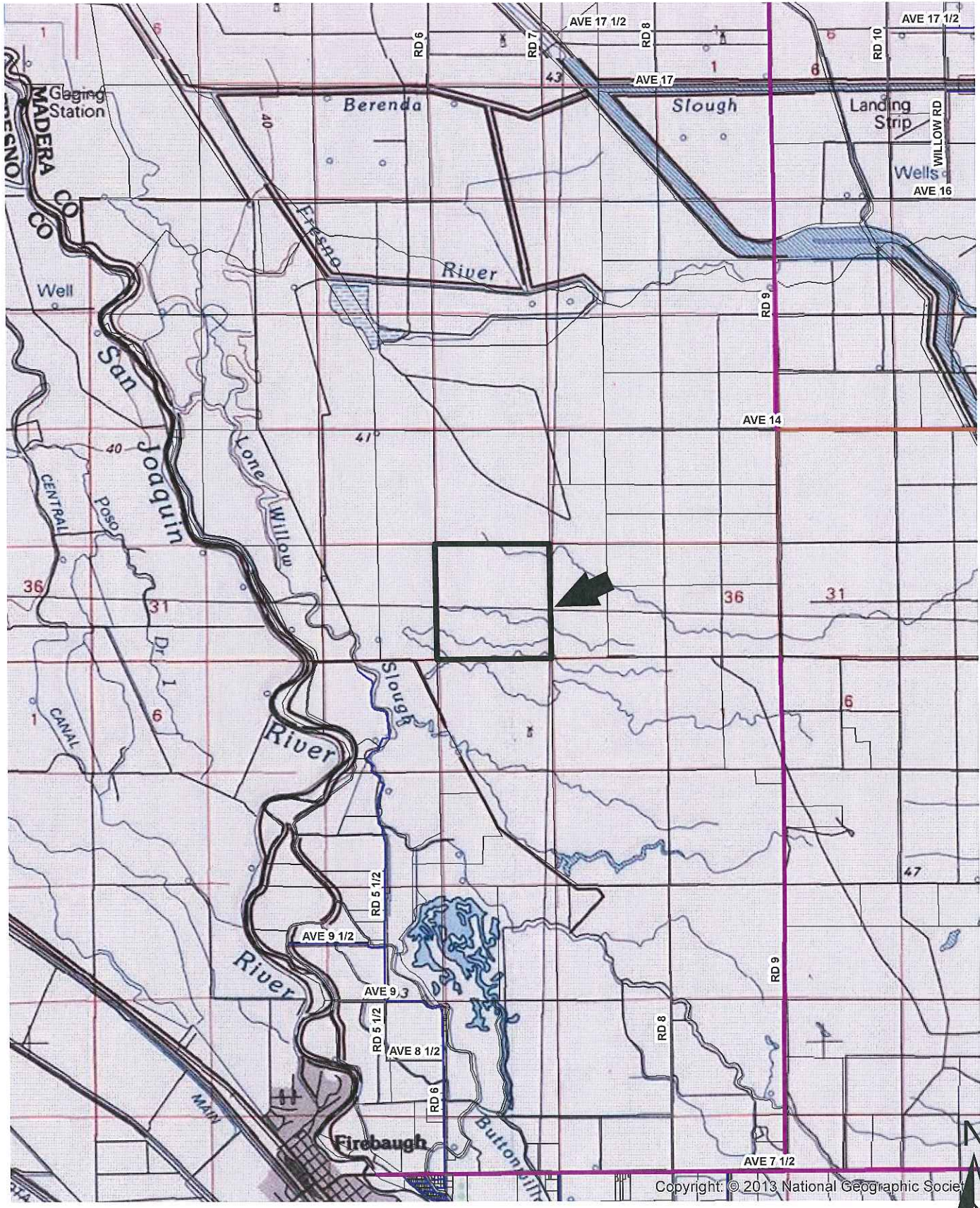


PRODUCTION PAD



AERIAL MAP

EXHIBIT F



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

Operational/Environmental Statement Checklist

TTR Energy

Proposed Natural Gas Well: TT 1-34

1. Please provide the following information:
Parcel No. 043-072-001
Applicant: Triangle T Ranch, Inc
c/o Mary Halpin, Irani Engineering
13705 Dugan Ave
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 214-5529
2. Describe the nature of your proposal/operation.
To drill an exploratory natural gas well and if gas is found in economic quantities, produce and operate the well.
3. What is the existing use of the property?
Pistachio orchard.
4. What products will be produced by the operation? Will they be produced on-site or at some other location? Are these products to be sold on-site?
Not applicable.
5. What are the proposed operational time limits?
The drilling phase will last approximately two weeks. We will be on site 24 hours per day. If a gas well is discovered, then a completion rig will be on site for one week. Once we are producing natural gas, our pumper will be on site once a day for two or three hours to make sure everything is working properly.
6. Will there be any special activities or events?
There are no special events or activities at the location.
7. How many customers or visitors are expected?
There are no customers or visitors.
8. How many employees will there be?
Twenty employees the first and last day to set up (rig up) and dismantle the drilling rig (rig down). During the drilling operations, twelve employees will work 8-hour shifts. Five engineers or supervisors will stay in trailers around the drilling rig for two weeks. There will be three employees to put in the pipeline and production equipment, which will take about one week. One person (the pumper) will visit the location daily.

9. What equipment, materials, or supplies will be used and how will they be stored?
Drilling rig and equipment. Production pad and equipment. Please see attached plats.
10. Will there be any service and delivery vehicles?
Service companies with six trucks, approximately six times.
11. Number of parking spaces for employees, customers, and service/delivery vehicles. Type of surfacing on parking area.
There will be fifteen spaces on the dirt pad.
12. How will access be provided to the property/project?
From I-5, East on Hwy 152 for 25 miles, South on Road 4, East on Avenue 18 1/2, south on 2nd driveway, ranch roads to well-site.
13. Estimate the number and type of vehicular trips per day that will be generated by the proposed development.
There will be 15 semi truckloads to set up, rig up and rig down, on the first and last day for the drilling phase, along with a dozen employee pickup trucks or cars going in and out every day. While drilling there will be approximately 4 large trucks per day for two weeks. During the completion phase there will be one completion rig on a truck and three service company trucks and four company pickups for approximately one week. During the pipeline and production equipment installation phase there will be approximately one 18-wheeler delivering pipe and four pickup trucks in and out per day for one week. During the production phase there will be a pumper in one truck in and out per day every day to inspect the equipment and take readings.
14. Describe any proposed advertising including size, appearance, and placement.
There will be no advertising.
15. Will existing buildings be used or will new buildings be constructed?
No existing buildings or new buildings will be required for this project.
16. Is there any landscaping or fencing proposed?
No landscaping or fencing is required.
17. What are the surrounding land uses to the north, south, east and west boundaries of the property?
All surrounding sections are pistachio orchards.
18. Will this operation or equipment used generate noise above existing parcels in the area?
No.

19. On a daily or weekly basis, how much water will be used by the proposed development, and how is water to be supplied to the proposed development (please be specific).
Four hundred US barrels or 16,800 gallons of fresh water will be used over a two-week period of time. The water will be trucked in vacuum truck tankers.
20. On a daily or weekly basis, how much wastewater will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of?
Over a two-week period of time, 400 US barrels will be generated of wastewater. At the end of the project it will be hauled off to a waste disposal site by vacuum truck tankers.
21. On a daily or weekly basis, how much solid waste (garbage) will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of?
In two weeks approximately one 6x8x8 trash container of garbage will be generated. The trash container will be on site and then a waste disposal company will take it to a dump.
22. Will there be any grading? Will removal of trees or vegetation occur which may provide unique or sensitive wildlife habitat? (Please state the purpose, i.e. for roads, building pads, drainage, etc.)
Existing year old pistachio trees will be removed to establish drilling pad. Removal of trees will not affect any wildlife habitat. A 300' x 150' pad will be graded level for the drilling rig. A sump 7' deep x 25' x 150' for water and drilling fluid (mud) storage will be dug. It will be drained by vacuum trucks and filled back in at the end of the job. If gas is found, the drilling pad will be reduced to a production pad 150' x 150'.
23. Are there any archeological or historically significant sites located on this property? If so, describe and show location on site plan.
There are no archeological or historically significant sites on this property.
24. Locate and show all bodies of water on application plot plan or attached map.
There are no bodies of water located nearby.
25. Show any ravines, gullies, and natural drainage courses on the property on the plot plan.
See plot plan.
26. Will hazardous materials or waste be produced as part of this project? If so, how will they be shipped or disposed of?
Drilling fluid (mud) will be trucked to a disposal site at the end of the job.

27. Will your proposal require use of any public services or facilities? (i.e.: schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?)
No public services or facilities will be used for this project.
28. How do you see this development impacting the surrounding area?
There will be no impact on the surrounding areas. There are other gas wells in the vicinity.
29. How do you see this development impacting schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?
No effect.
30. If your proposal is for commercial or industrial development, please complete the following: Proposed Use(s) Square Feet of Building Area(s) Total Number of Employees Building Heights.
Not Applicable.
31. If your proposal is for a land division, show any slopes over 10% on the map or on an attached map.
Not Applicable.

Findings of Fact

TTR Energy

TT 1-34

1. The proposed project does not violate the spirit or intent of the Zoning Ordinance. The project is located in a pistachio orchard and the production pad will not disturb the current usage of the parcel. The geological data indicates that there are substantial gas deposits located beneath the surface of this parcel.
2. The proposed project will allow the mineral owner of this parcel to access his minerals, and through the natural gas production, contribute to the general welfare of the entire community by adding energy resources to the system.
3. The proposed project is not contrary to the public health, safety or general welfare. This project is approximately four and three-quarters miles off the public road. Exploring for and producing natural gas does not significantly generate any more noise or disturbance than typical agricultural practices.
4. Seismic data has been shot over this area and interpreted by qualified geologists. It is the opinion of these geologists that this parcel has the advantage of not only producing crops, but also is the surface over valuable gas reserves. Gas production and agriculture are very compatible together. The proposed project is not hazardous, harmful, noxious, offensive, or a nuisance because of noise, dust, smoke, odor, glare, or similar factors. The production of natural gas is very unobtrusive. It does not create any of the above factors. This area of the county has historically had many gas wells.
5. The special feature of this parcel which may differ from other parcels in the area is that the geological data indicates gas reserves deep below the surface. The proposed project will not for any reason cause a substantial adverse effect upon the property values and general desirability of the neighborhood or the County. In fact, it will increase property values if gas is found.

IRANI

ENGINEERING

CONSULTING PETROLEUM ENGINEERS

May 28, 2014

Brenton Gibbons
Madera Resource Management Agency
2037 W Cleveland Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Dear Brent,

In response to the comments from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, I would like to amend the application for TTR Energy, CUP #2009-003, to remove the use of a sump during the drilling of the well. TTR Energy will use a closed tank system to remove the drilling fluids and mud from the location instead.

Sincerely,



Mary Halpin
Permit Coordinator



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Community and Economic Development
Department of Planning and Building

Norman L. Allinder, AICP
Director

EXHIBIT I

2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Mail Stop G
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-7821
FAX (559) 675-6573
TDD (559) 675-8970
mc_planning@madera-county.com

DATE: June 4, 2014
TO: Development Review Committee
FROM: Jerome Keene, Planning Department
Brent Gibbons, Planning Department
RE: Triangle T Ranch - Conditional Use Permit - Firebaugh (CUP #2009-003)
(043-072-001-000)

1. The project shall operate in accordance with the operational statement and plans submitted for this project except as modified by the conditions of approval of this conditional use permit associated mitigation measures.
2. Driveway, circulation, access and pad area to be kept in a dust free environment.
3. All lighting with this project is to be hooded and directed away from adjoining properties.
4. Prior to release of the Conditional Use Permit, the applicant shall pay the Notice of Determination fee of \$2181.25. This must be made payable to the County of Madera and must be submitted to cover the cost of the filing fee of the Fish and Game fees and County Clerk Notice of Determination filing fees. You have the option of going to the Department of Fish and Game to apply for a waiver of fees and determination of no impact. You may contact the State main office at (916) 651-0603. If this determination is made, a County Clerk filing fee of \$50.00 and the letter waiver must be submitted to the Planning Department. The Fish and Game fee, or letter of waiver, and clerk filing fee must be received within 10 days after final action by either the Board of Supervisors or the Planning Commission.
5. If the production or exploratory well is to be abandoned, all equipment, including well and storage tanks, shall be removed from the production site, and the site restored to its normal contour and condition within six months of ceasing operation. If the well is to be abandoned, it shall be sealed in accordance to the Division of Oil and Gas requirements.
6. Any dirt or construction debris associated with this project shall be covered or otherwise stabilized in such a fashion as to not create airborne dust emissions.
7. The site shall be kept in a litter free condition.
8. If project construction related activities (including but not limited to ground disturbing activities) result in the disturbing of subsurface cultural deposits, project related activities should be halted and a professional archaeologist brought in to determine the culture of the deposits.
9. Construction related activities shall be limited from 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday, and 8:00am-5:00pm Saturdays.
10. Noise levels generated with this project shall be in accordance with the Madera County Noise Element



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Environmental Health Department

• 2037 West Cleveland Avenue
• Madera, CA 93637
• (559) 675-7823

Jill Yaeger, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Gibbons
FROM: Environmental Health Department
DATE: June 3, 2014
RE: Triangle T Ranch - Conditional Use Permit - Firebaugh (043-072-001-000)

Comments

TO: Planning Department
FROM: Environmental Health Department
DATE: May 27, 2014
RE: CUP #2009-003 Triangle T Ranch, APN: 043-072-001

Environmental Health Department Comments:

The applicant must comply with the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) rules and regulations.

The applicant must apply for a Well Construction Application (permit) from Madera County Environmental Health Department. During the application process for required County permits, a more detailed review of the proposed projects compliance with all current local, state & federal requirements will be reviewed for approval by this department prior to commencement of any work activities.

If your facility handles/store any hazardous materials on-site or generates hazardous waste you may be subject to permitting requirements through our department. As of January 2013 all Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) regulated businesses must submit their Hazardous Material Business Plan electronically into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) at www.cers.calepa.ca.gov.

The construction and then ongoing operation must be done in a manner that shall not allow any type of public nuisance(s) to occur including but not limited to the following nuisance(s); Dust, Odor(s), Noise(s), Lighting, Vector(s) or Solid Waste refuse. This must be accomplished under accepted and approved Best Management Practices (BMP) and as required by the County General Plan, County Ordinances and any other related State and/or Federal jurisdiction.

If there are any questions or comments regarding these conditions/requirements please feel free to contact this department at (559) 675-7823, M-F, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

MADERA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN COOPERATION WITH
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

2037 W. CLEVELAND
MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
(559) 661-6333
(559) 675-6973 FAX

DEBORAH KEENAN
MADERA COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jerome Keene
FROM: Deborah Keenan, Fire Marshal
DATE: May 16, 2014
RE: Triangle T Ranch - Conditional Use Permit - Firebaugh (043-072-001-000)

Comments

All access to the project site shall be minimum 10 feet wide, and an approved weather drivable surface. Turnouts shall be provided at midpoint for all access that exceeds 400 feet. Turnouts are 10 feet wide for 30 feet, with 25 foot tapers on each end.

All roads accessing the project site shall be cleared of flammable vegetation over 18 inches in height to a distance of 20 feet from the centerline of the road. Vertical clearance of a minimum 15 feet is required as to provide an unobstructed access for fire apparatus. (CFC, Section 503.2.1 and CVC Section 22500.1)



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY Road Department

Johannes J. Hoevertsz, Road Commissioner

EXHIBIT L

2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Mail Stop 'D'
Madera, CA 93637-8720
(559) 675-7811
FAX (559) 675-7631
jhoevertsz2@madera-county.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Gibbons – Planning Department

FROM: Jason Chandler – Road Department 

DATE: May 19, 2014

SUBJECT: **CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 2009-003 / TRIANGLE T RANCH**

The Road Department has reviewed the above-noted project to allow a Natural Gas Well on farmland. The project is located on the west side of the county two miles west of Road 9 and one mile south of Avenue 14.

There are no public roads accessing this project. All access is obtained by way of farm roads. The Road Department considers farm roads as private and has no jurisdiction over private roads

There are no plans for acquiring right of way at this time. The Road Department recommends approval of this project.



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

27 May 2014

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2014

MADERA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Brent Gibbons
Madera County Planning Department
2037 West Cleveland Ave.
Madera, CA 93637

COMMENTS – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT # 2009-003, TRIANGLE T RANCH NATURAL GAS WELL PROJECT

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff reviewed Conditional Use Permit # 2009-003, Triangle T Ranch (CUP), received on 15 May 2014. The CUP is for the drilling of a proposed natural gas well by Triangle T Ranch, Inc. (Applicant) in the Merrill Avenue Southeast gas field. The drilling location is in the SW¼ of Section 34, T11S, R14E, MDB&M.

Central Valley Water Board staff has the following comments:

1. The discharge of boring wastes (drilling mud and drill cuttings) to sump(s) adjacent to drilling oil and gas wells is not authorized until a Notice of Applicability (NOA) for coverage under *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality* (General WDRs), individual Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), or a waiver is obtained from the Central Valley Water Board. In general, conditional use permit applicants proposing to use sump(s) when drilling natural gas well(s) in Madera County should contact Central Valley Water Board staff when completing their plans for the handling and disposal of drilling mud and drill cuttings.
2. Groundwater near the Applicant's proposed well is as shallow as 35 feet beneath ground surface. Therefore, the Applicant's submission of either a Notice of Intent to obtain an NOA for coverage under the General WDRs or a Report of Waste Discharge to obtain individual WDRs or a waiver would need to demonstrate that the proposed use of a sump to contain boring wastes would not impact groundwater.
3. If the Applicant is not able to demonstrate that groundwater would not be impacted, then the Applicant will not be able to use an unlined drilling sump for the proposed well. If an applicant chooses to contain all boring wastes in aboveground tanks, then no permit from the Central Valley Water Board is required. After drilling is completed, the proper disposal or reuse of non-hazardous boring wastes contained in tanks needs to be documented.
4. Discharging boring wastes to a drilling sump adjacent to any oil and gas wells in the Central Valley Region without first obtaining a NOA or individual WDRs is a violation of the California Water Code.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Douglas Wachtell at (559) 445-5114 or at Doug.Wachtell@waterboards.ca.gov



FOR

DANE S. JOHNSON
Senior Engineering Geologist
PG No. 4239

cc: Tim Boardman, California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, Coalinga
Mary Halpin, Irani Engineering, Red Bluff

MAY 21 2014

Brent Gibbons
County of Madera
Planning Department
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

**Project: CUP #2009-003, Triangle T Ranch- Conditional Use Permit- Firebaugh
(043-072-001-000)**

District CEQA Reference No: 20140327

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has reviewed the project referenced above consisting of a proposal to operate a natural gas well located, at Section 34, T11s, R14E, MDB&M (APN 043-072-001) in Madera County, CA. The District offers the following comments:

District Comments

- 1) Based on information provided to the District, project specific emissions of criteria pollutants are not expected to exceed District significance thresholds of 10 tons/year NOX, 10 ton/year ROG, and 15 tons/year PM10. Therefore, the District concludes that project specific criteria pollutant emissions would have no significant adverse impact on air quality.
- 2) The proposed project may require District permits. Prior to the start of construction the project proponent should contact the District's Small Business Assistance Office at (559) 230-5888 to determine if an Authority to Construct (ATC) is required.
- 3) The proposed project may be subject to the following District rules: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants).

Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: (559) 230-6000 FAX: (559) 230-6061

Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
Tel: 661-392-5500 FAX: 661-392-5585

The above list of rules is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. To identify other District rules or regulations that apply to this project or to obtain information about District permit requirements, the applicant is strongly encouraged to contact the District's Small Business Assistance Office at (559) 230-5888. Current District rules can be found online at: www.valleyair.org/rules/1ruleslist.htm.

District staff is available to meet with you and/or the applicant to further discuss the regulatory requirements that are associated with this project. If you have any questions or require further information, please call Angel Lor at (559) 230- 5808.

Sincerely,

Arnaud Marjollet
Director of Permit Services



for: Chay Thao
Program Manager

AM: al

Brenton Gibbons

From: Hulbert, Steven@Wildlife [Steven.Hulbert@wildlife.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:54 AM
To: Brenton Gibbons
Subject: RE: Madera County Traingle T Ranch Comments

Brenton, the Department has reviewed the information you emailed with regard to the planned natural gas exploration Project, and has no comments at this time.

Steven Hulbert
Environmental Scientist
Project Planning and Permitting
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Ph. (559) 243-4014 Ext. 289
Fax (559) 243-4020

From: Brenton Gibbons [<mailto:brenton.gibbons@madera-county.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:07 PM
To: Hulbert, Steven@Wildlife
Cc: Robert Mansfield
Subject: Madera County Traingle T Ranch Comments
Importance: High

Hi Steven,

I've attached the following information for your comment. I am puzzled on why it kicked back, possibly I misspelled the address or number order. Please provide comments on this as soon as possible. We need to get comments to the Applicant by Friday, Monday at the latest. I apologize for the inconvenience. I will be out of the office Thursday through all next week, so please forward the comments to Robert Mansfield (robert.mansfield@madera-county.com) in our office and copy me on them as well.

Thank you for your speediness. I will be checking email when I am gone if you have any questions.

Best Regards,
Brenton Gibbons



Planner II
Madera County Planning Department
2037 W Cleveland Ave
Madera CA 93637
Phone 559.675.7821 ext 3217
Fax 559.675.6573

Environmental Checklist Form

Title of Proposal: CUP #2009-003 Triangle T Ranch

Date Checklist Submitted: June 11, 2014

Agency Requiring Checklist: Madera County Planning Department

Agency Contact: Brenton Gibbons, Planner II

Phone: (559) 675-7821

Description of Initial Study/Requirement

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have significant effects on the environment. In the case of the proposed project, the Madera County Planning Department, acting as lead agency, will use the initial study to determine whether the project has a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, Guidelines (Section 15063[a]), an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence (such as results of the Initial Study) that a project may have significant effect on the environment. This is true regardless of whether the overall effect of the project would be adverse or beneficial. A negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND) may be prepared if the lead agency determines that the project would have no potentially significant impacts or that revisions to the project, or measures agreed to by the applicant, mitigate the potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The initial study considers and evaluates all aspects of the project which are necessary to support the proposal. The complete project description includes the site plan, operational statement, and other supporting materials which are available in the project file at the office of the Madera County Planning Department.

Description of Project:

The Conditional Use Permit is requesting to allow for the exploration of, and potential drilling of, natural gas.

Project Location:

The subject property is located on the south side of Avenue 14, approximately 1.1 miles south of the terminus of Avenue 14, T11S, R14E, section 34 (No Situs), Firebaugh.

Applicant Name and Address:

TTR Energy
Mary Halpin
13705 Dugan Avenue
Red Bluff, CA 96080

General Plan Designation:

AE (Agriculture Exclusive)

Zoning Designation:

ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive, Forty Acre District)

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Agriculture

Other Public Agencies whose approval is required:

None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Prior EIR or ND/MND Number

Signature

Date

I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

No scenic vistas are known to exist in the vicinity of the project area

(b) No Impact

No impacts are identified as a result of this project.

(c) Less than Significant Impact

The project site has already been developed with a pistachio orchard, thus not creating any additional significant impacts.

(d) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporation

During the construction and initial exploratory drilling phase, the project has the potential of creating additional nighttime lighting. Through mitigation this affect can be lessened to a less than significant impact.

A nighttime sky in which stars are readily visible is often considered a valuable scenic/visual resource. In urban areas, views of the nighttime sky are being diminished by "light pollution." Light pollution, as defined by the International dark-Sky Association, is any adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste. Two elements of light pollution may affect city residents: sky glow and light trespass. Sky glow is a result of light fixtures that emit a portion of their light directly upward into the sky where light scatters, creating an orange-yellow glow above a city or town. This light can interfere with views of the nighttime sky and can diminish the number of stars that are visible. Light trespass occurs when poorly shielded or poorly aimed fixtures cast light into unwanted areas, such as neighboring property and homes.

Light pollution is a problem most typically associated with urban areas. Lighting is necessary for nighttime viewing and for security purposes. However, excessive lighting or inappropriately designed lighting fixtures can disturb nearby sensitive land uses through indirect illumination. Land uses which are considered "sensitive" to this unwanted light include residences, hospitals, and care homes.

Daytime sources of glare include reflections off of light-colored surfaces, windows, and metal details on cars traveling on nearby roadways. The amount of glare depends on the intensity and direction of sunlight, which is more acute at sunrise and sunset because the angle of the sun is lower during these times.

III.

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resource Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Protection (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The subject parcel is considered Grazing Land (G). Thus there will be no impacts.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

The project is located on a parcel that is subject to the Williamson Act. However, the projects footprint and operations are minimal in light of the whole and will not impact the overall use of the property in regards to agricultural operations.

(c) No Impact

The area is not considered forest land, or zoned as forest land, or timberland, therefore no impacts will occur.

(d) No Impact

The area is not considered forest land, or zoned as forest land, or timberland, therefore no impacts will occur.

(e) No Impact

The subject parcel is considered Grazing Land (G). Thus there will be no impacts.

General Information

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 -- commonly referred to as the Williamson Act -- enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.

The Department of Conservation oversees the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance. The program's definition of land is below:

PRIME FARMLAND (P): Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S): Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

UNIQUE FARMLAND (U): Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include nonirrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L): Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

GRAZING LAND (G): Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This

category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.

URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D): Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

OTHER LAND (X): Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant

There will be an increase in particulate matter and some odors during the construction phase of the project. However these affects will be minimal and temporary in nature.

(b) Less than Significant

There will be an increase in particulate matter and some odors during the construction phase of the project. However these affects will be minimal and temporary in nature.

(c) Less than Significant

There will be an increase in particulate matter and some odors during the construction phase of the project. However these affects will be minimal and temporary in nature.

(d) No Impact

No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

(e) No Impact

No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

Global Climate Change

Climate change is a shift in the “average weather” that a given region experiences. This is measured by changes in temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global climate is the change in the climate of the earth as a whole. It can occur naturally, as in the case of an ice age, or occur as a result of anthropogenic activities. The extent to which anthropogenic activities influence climate change has been the subject of extensive scientific inquiry in the past several decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recognized as the leading research body on the subject, issued its Fourth Assessment Report in February 2007, which asserted that there is “very high confidence” (by IPCC definition a 9 in 10 chance of being correct) that human activities have resulted in a net warming of the planet since 1750.

CEQA requires an agency to engage in forecasting “to the extent that an activity could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. An agency cannot be expected to predict the future course of governmental regulation or exactly what information scientific advances may ultimately reveal” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15144, Office of Planning and Research commentary, citing the California Supreme Court decision in Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of the University of California [1988] 47 Cal. 3d 376).

Recent concerns over global warming have created a greater interest in greenhouse gases (GHG) and their contribution to global climate change (GCC). However at this time there are no generally accepted thresholds of significance for determining the impact of GHG emissions from an individual project on GCC. Thus, permitting agencies are in the position of developing policy and guidance to ascertain and mitigate to the extent feasible the effects of GHG, for CEQA purposes, without the normal degree of accepted guidance by case law.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified				

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant

The project site is currently developed and is not within an area that would be biologically affected by operations. There currently is a pistachio orchard on the property. Therefore, the impacts are less than significant.

(b) No Impact

The project site is currently developed with a pistachio orchard.

(c) No Impact

The project site is currently developed with a pistachio orchard.

(d) No Impact

The project site is currently developed with a pistachio orchard.

(e) No Impact

The project site is currently developed with a pistachio orchard.

(f) No Impact

The project site is currently developed with a pistachio orchard.

Special Status Species include:

- Plants and animals that are legally protected or proposed for protection under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);

- Plants and animals defined as endangered or rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15380;
- Animals designated as species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Animals listed as “fully protected” in the Fish and Game Code of California (§3511, §4700, §5050 and §5515); and
- Plants listed in the California Native Plant Society’s (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

A review of both the County’s and Department of Fish and Game’s databases for special status species have identified the following species:

Species	Federal Listing	State Listing	Dept. of Fish and Game Listing	CNPS Listing
Swainson’s Hawk	None	Threatened	None	None
Steelhead – Central Valley DPS	Threatened	None	None	None
San Joaquin Kit Fox	Endangered	Threatened	None	None
Blunt Nosed Leopard Lizard	Endangered	Endangered	FP	None
Giants Garter Snake	Threatened	Threatened	None	None
Coast Horned Lizard	None	None	SSC	None
Valley Sacaton Grassland	None	None	None	None
Heartscale	None	None	None	1B.2
Lesser Saltscale	None	None	None	1B.1
Palmate-Bracted Salty Birds Beak	Endangered	Endangered	None	1B.1

Poso Farm Quadrangle

List 1A: Plants presumed extinct

List 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.

List 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere

List 3 Plants which more information is needed – a review list

List 4: Plants of Limited Distributed - a watch list

Ranking

0.1 – Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)

0.2 – Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

0.3 – Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

SSC Species of Special Concern

WL Watch List

General Information

Effective January 1, 2007, Senate Bill 1535 took effect that has changed de minimis findings procedures. The Senate Bill takes the de minimis findings capabilities out of the Lead Agency hands and puts the process into the hands of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formally the California Department of Fish and Game). A Notice of Determination filing fee is due each time a NOD is filed at the jurisdictions Clerk's Office. The authority comes under Senate Bill 1535 (SB 1535) and Department of Fish and Wildlife Code 711.4. Each year the fee is evaluated and has the potential of increasing. For the most up-to-date fees, please refer to: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/ceqa/ceqa_changes.html.

The Valley elderberry longhorn beetle was listed as a threatened species in 1980. Use of the elderberry bush by the beetle, a wood borer, is rarely apparent. Frequently, the only exterior evidence of the elderberry's use by the beetle is an exit hole created by the larva just prior to the pupal stage. According to the USFWS, the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat is primarily in communities of clustered Elderberry plants located within riparian habitat. The USFWS stated that VELB habitat does not include every Elderberry plant in the Central Valley, such as isolated, individual plants, plants with stems that are less than one inch in basal diameter or plants located in upland habitat.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant Impact

Though the project site is currently developed with agricultural uses, there is the possibility that disturbance by future construction can result in the finding of unknown cultural resources.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

Though the project site is currently developed with agricultural uses, there is the possibility that disturbance by future construction can result in the finding of unknown cultural resources.

(c) No Impact.

The project site is currently developed, therefore no impacts are expected.

(d) Less than Significant Impact

While the site and its surroundings have been developed for agricultural purposes, there still is the potential of finds being located in the area of previously unknown human remains or cemeteries.

Most of the archaeological survey work in the County has taken place in the foothills and mountains. This does not mean, however, that no sites exist in the western part of the County, but rather that this area has not been as thoroughly studied. There are slightly more than 2,000 recorded archaeological sites in the County, most of which are located in the foothills and mountains. Recorded prehistoric artifacts include village sites, camp sites, bedrock milling stations, pictographs, petroglyphs, rock rings, sacred sites, and resource gathering areas. Madera County also contains a significant number of potentially historic sites, including homesteads and ranches, mining and logging sites and associated features (such as small camps, railroad beds, logging chutes, and trash dumps.

Public Resource Code 5021.1(b) defines a historic resource as “any object building, structure, site, area or place which is historically significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.” These resources are of such import, that it is codified in CEQA (PRC Section 21000) which prohibits actions that “disrupt, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property of historical or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social groups; or a paleontological site except as part of a scientific study.”

Archaeological importance is generally, although not exclusively, a measure of the archaeological research value of a site which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory.
- Can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions.
- Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind.
- Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity (i.e. it is essentially undisturbed and intact).
- Involves important research questions that historic research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

Reference CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 for definitions.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a-i) No Impact

There are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. The County does not lie within an Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone for fault creep.

(a-ii) Less than Significant Impact

Seismic ground shaking, however, is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County because of the County's seismic setting and its record of historical activity. (General Plan Background Element and Program EIR).

(a-iii) Less than Significant Impact

Madera County is not located directly on a known fault. Seismic activity in nearby jurisdictions can be felt in Madera County.

(a-iv) No Impact

The project site is located on the valley floor in a flat topographical area which is not located in an area of the County impacted by landslides.

(b) No Impact

The construction of a natural gas well will not induce soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. No impact was identified.

(c) No Impact

Geological hazards, such as landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, and liquefaction have not been known to occur within the vicinity of the project site.

(d) No Impact

The project is not located on expansive soil.

(e) No Impact

No impacts were identified as a result of this project.

Madera County is divided into two major physiographic and geologic provinces: the Sierra Nevada Range and the Central Valley. The Sierra Nevada physiographic province in the northeastern portion of the county is underlain by metamorphic and igneous rock. It consists mainly of homogenous types of granitic rocks, with several islands of older metamorphic rock. The central and western parts of the county are part of the Central Valley province, underlain by marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks.

The foothill area of the county is essentially a transition zone, containing old alluvial soils that have been dissected by the west-flowing rivers and streams which carry runoff from the Sierra Nevada's.

Seismicity varies greatly between the two major geologic provinces represented in Madera County. The Central valley is an area of relatively low tectonic activity bordered by mountain ranges on either side. The Sierra Nevada's, partly within Madera County, are the result of movement of tectonic plates which resulted in the creation of the mountain range. The Coast Ranges on the west side of the Central Valley are also a result of these forces, and continued movement of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates continues to elevate the ranges. Most of the seismic hazards in Madera County result from movement along faults associated with the creation of these ranges.

There are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. The County does not lie within any Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone for surface faulting or fault creep.

However, there are two significant faults within the larger region that have been and will continue to be, the principle sources of potential seismic activity within Madera County.

San Andreas Fault: The San Andreas Fault lies approximately 45 miles west of the county line. The fault has a long history of activity and is thus a concern in determining activity in the area.

Owens Valley Fault Group: The Owens Valley Fault Group is a complex system containing both active and potentially active faults on the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada Range. This group is located

approximately 80 miles east of the County line in Inyo County. This system has historically been the source of seismic activity within the County.

The *Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the state prison project near Fairmead identified faults within a 100 mile radius of the project site. Since Fairmead is centrally located along Highway 99 within the county, this information provides a good indicator of the potential seismic activity which might be felt within the County. Fifteen active faults (including the San Andreas and Owens Valley Fault Group) were identified in the *Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation*. Four of the faults lie along the eastern portion of the Sierra Nevada Range, approximately 75 miles to the northeast of Fairmead. These are the Parker Lake, Hartley Springs, Hilton Creek and Mono Valley Faults. The remaining faults are in the western portion of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as within the Coast Range, approximately 47 miles west of Fairmead. Most of the remaining 11 faults are associated with the San Andreas, Calaveras, Hayward and Rinconada Fault Systems which collectively form the tectonic plate boundary of the Central Valley.

In addition, the Clovis Fault, although not having any historic evidence of activity, is considered to be active within quaternary time (within the past two million years), is considered potentially active. This fault line lies approximately six miles south of the Madera County line in Fresno County. Activity along this fault could potentially generate more seismic activity in Madera County than the San Andreas or Owens Valley fault systems. However, because of the lack of historic activity along the Clovis Fault, there is inadequate evidence for assessing maximum earthquake impacts.

Seismic ground shaking, however, is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County because of the County's seismic setting and its record of historical activity (General Plan Background Element and Program EIR). The project represents no specific threat or hazard from seismic ground shaking, and all new construction will comply with current local and state building codes. Other geologic hazards, such as landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, and liquefaction have not been known to occur within Madera County.

According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, groundshaking is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County. The valley portion of Madera County is located on alluvium deposits, which tend to experience greater groundshaking intensities than areas located on hard rock. Therefore, structures located in the valley will tend to suffer greater damage from groundshaking than those located in the foothill and mountain areas.

Liquefaction is a process whereby soil is temporarily transformed to a fluid form during intense and prolonged ground shaking. According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, although there are areas of Madera County where the water table is at 30 feet or less below the surface, soil types in the area are not conducive to liquefaction because they are either too coarse in texture or too high in clay content; the soil types mitigate against the potential for liquefaction.

VII.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less Than Significant Impact

There is a slight potential increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to the temporary increase in vehicular construction traffic to the natural gas rig/well; therefore the increase is not significant.

(b) No Impact

No impacts identified as a result of this project.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: The potential effect of greenhouse gas emission on global climate change is an emerging issue that warrants discussion under CEQA. Unlike the pollutants discussed previously that may have regional and local effects, greenhouse gases have the potential to cause global changes in the environment. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions do not directly produce a localized impact, but may cause an indirect impact if the local climate is adversely changed by its cumulative contribution to a change in global climate. Individual development projects contribute relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases that when added to other greenhouse gas producing activities around the world would result in an increase in these emissions that have led many to conclude is changing the global climate. However, no threshold has been established for what would constitute a cumulatively considerable increase in greenhouse gases for individual development projects. The State of California has taken several actions that help to address potential global climate change impacts.

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, outlines goals for local agencies to follow in order to bring Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels (a 25% overall reduction) by the year 2020. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) holds the responsibility of monitoring and reducing GHG emissions through regulations, market mechanisms and other actions. A Draft Scoping Plan was adopted by CARB in order to provide guidelines and policy for the State to follow in its steps to reduce GHG. According to CARB, the scoping plan’s GHG reduction actions include: direct regulations, alternative compliance mechanisms, monetary and non-monetary incentives, voluntary actions, and market-based mechanisms such as a cap-and-trade system.

Following the adoption of AB 32, the California State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 375, which became the first major bill in the United States that would aim to limit climate change by linking directly to “smart growth” land use principles and transportation. It adds incentives for projects which intend to be in-fill, mixed use, affordable and self-contained developments. SB 375 includes the creation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) through the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in order to create land use patterns which reduce overall emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Incentives include California Environmental Quality Act streamlining and possible exemptions for projects which fulfill specific criteria.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Incorporation

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less Than Significant

The project entails the drilling and possible production of natural gas. There is always the chance of an accident.

(b) Less Than Significant

The project entails the drilling and possible production of natural gas. There is always the chance of an accident.

(c) No Impact.

The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

(d) No Impact.

The project site is not located on any list of hazardous or contained sites.

(e) No Impact.

The project site is part of a county wide adopted Airport Land Use Plan. The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport.

(f) No Impact.

The project site is part of a county wide adopted Airport Land Use Plan. The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport.

(g) No Impact.

The project site has adequate access to a maintained County Road.

(h) No Impact.

No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

Any hazardous material because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical properties, pose a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety, or the environment the California legislature adopted Article I, Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code, Sections 25500 to 25520 that requires any business handling or storing a hazardous material or hazardous waste to establish a Business Plan. The information obtained from the completed Business Plans will be provided to emergency response personnel for a better-prepared emergency response due to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and/or hazardous waste.

Business owners that handle or store a hazardous material or mixtures containing a hazardous material, which has a quantity at any one time during the year, equal to or greater than:

- 1) A total of 55 gallons,
- 2) A total of 500 pounds,
- 3) 200 cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure of compressed gas,
- 4) Any quantity of Acutely Hazardous Material (AHM).

Assembly Bill AB 2286 requires all business and agencies to report their Hazardous Materials Business Plans to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) information electronically at <http://cers.calepa.ca.gov>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a				

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

No impacts identified as a result of this project.

(b) No Impact

No impacts identified as a result of this project.

(c) Less Than Significant

The placement of the equipment and production pad will alter storm water runoff, but to a less than significant manner. The total area of the pad is insignificant to the whole of the parcel.

(d) No Impact

No streams or rivers traverse the property.

(e) Less Than Significant

The placement of the equipment and production pad will alter storm water runoff, but to a less than significant manner. The total area of the pad is insignificant to the whole of the parcel.

(f) No Impact

No impacts identified as a result of this project.

(g) No Impact

The project will not be locating housing in a 100-year flood hazard area.

(h) Less Than Significant

The project is A Flood Zone according to FEMA is: *“Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown.”* (www.msc.fema.gov)

(i) No Impact

The project will not expose significant risk of loss, injury, or death to people or structures.

(j) No Impact

The project site is not located within an area affected by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

A seiche is an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay or estuary producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes or changes in barometric pressure. A tsunami is an unusually large sea wave produced by seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption (from the Japanese language, roughly translated as “harbor wave”). According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. Additionally, there are no bodies of water (lakes, etc.) within proximity of the site. Madera County is geographically located in the center of the state, therefore not affected by tsunamis.

General Information

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Valley Floor include high salinity (total dissolved solids), nitrate, uranium, arsenic, methane gas, iron, manganese, slime production, and dibromochloropropane with the maximum contaminant level exceeded in some areas. Despite the water quality issues noted above, most of the groundwater in the Valley Floor is of suitable quality for irrigation. Groundwater of suitable quality for public consumption has been demonstrated to be present in most of the area at specific depths.

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Foothills and Mountains include manganese, iron, high salinity, hydrogen sulfide gas, uranium, nitrate, arsenic, and methylbutylethylene (MTBE) with the maximum concentration level being exceeded in some areas. Despite these problems, there are substantial amounts of good-quality groundwater in each of the areas evaluated in the Foothills and Mountains. Iron and manganese are commonly removed by treatment. Uranium treatment is being conducted on a well by the Bass Lake Water Company.

A seiche is an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay or estuary producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes or changes in barometric pressure. A tsunami is an unusually large sea wave produced by seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption (from the Japanese language, roughly translated as “harbor wave”). According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. As this property is not located near any bodies of water, no impacts are identified.

The flood hazard areas of the County of Madera are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare. These flood losses are caused by uses that are inadequately elevated, floodproofed, or protected from flood damage. The cumulative effect of obstruction in areas of special flood hazards which increase flood height and velocities also contribute to flood loss.

X.	LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact.

The project site is located in a rural agricultural area of the County. No communities will be divided as a result of this project.

(b) No Impact.

The project is zoned ARE-40 and the General Plan is AE. The proposed project is consistent with the zone district and the general plan designation. A natural gas well is considered an allowed use by approval of conditional use permit in this zone district.

(c) No Impact.

The project was distributed to all agencies which are believed to have an interest in the project. These agencies have provided comments, where appropriate. No significant conflicts have been noted.

XI.	MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

Discussion:

(a) No Impact.

The project is for the exploration, and potential drilling for natural gas. No known materials are in the area and are not expected to be lost as a result of this project.

(b) No Impact.

The project is for the exploration, and potential drilling for natural gas. No known materials are in the area and are not expected to be lost as a result of this project.

XII. NOISE – Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

The project will increase ambient noise as a result of increased activity during construction such impacts is seen to be minimal and temporary.

(b) Less than Significant

The project can possibly contain vibrations during the construction phase; such impacts are seen to be minimal and temporary.

(c) No Impact

The project will not increase ambient noise levels, thus no impacts are expected.

(d) No Impact

The project will not increase ambient noise levels, thus no impacts are expected.

(e) No Impact.

This project is not within proximity to an airstrip or airport. It is not within an airport/airspace overlay district. There will be no impacts as a result.

(e) No Impact.

This project is not within proximity to an airstrip or airport. It is not within an airport/airspace overlay district. There will be no impacts as a result.

General Discussion

The Noise Element of the Madera County General Plan (Policy 7.A.5) provides that noise which will be created by new non-transportation noise sources shall be mitigated so as not to exceed the Noise Element noise level standards on lands designated for noise-sensitive uses. However, this policy does not apply to noise levels associated with agricultural operations. All the surrounding properties, while include some residential units, are designated and zoned for agricultural uses. This impact is therefore considered less than significant.

Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g. demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation, erection). The United States Environmental Protection Agency has found that the average noise levels associated with construction activities typically range from approximately 76 dBA to 84 dBA Leq, with intermittent individual equipment noise levels ranging from approximately 75 dBA to more than 88 dBA for brief periods.

Short Term Noise

Noise from localized point sources (such as construction sites) typically decreases by approximately 6 dBA with each doubling of distance from source to receptor. Given the noise attenuation rate and assuming no noise shielding from either natural or human-made features (e.g. trees, buildings, fences), outdoor receptors within approximately 400 feet of construction site could experience maximum noise levels of greater than 70 dBA when onsite construction-related noise levels exceed approximately 89 dBA at the project site boundary. Construction activities that occur during the more noise-sensitive eighteen hours could result in increased levels of annoyance and sleep disruption for occupants of nearby existing residential dwellings. As a result, noise-generating construction activities would be considered to have a potentially significant short-term impact. However with implementation of mitigation measures, this impact would be considered less than significant.

Long Term Noise

Mechanical building equipment (e.g. heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and boilers),

associated with the proposed structures, could generate noise levels of approximately 90 dBA at 3 feet from the source. However, such mechanical equipment systems are typically shielded from direct public exposure and usually housed on rooftops, within equipment rooms, or within exterior enclosures.

Landscape maintenance equipment, such as leaf blowers and gasoline powered mowers, associated with the proposed operations could result in intermittent noise levels that range from approximately 80 to 100 dBA at 3 feet, respectively. Based on an equipment noise level of 100 dBA, landscape maintenance equipment (assuming a noise attenuation rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance from the source) may result in exterior noise levels of approximately 75 dBA at 50 feet.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE FOR
NON-TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES***

		Residential	Commercial	Industrial (L)	Industrial (H)	Agricultural
Residential	AM	50	60	55	60	60
	PM	45	55	50	55	55
Commercial	AM	60	60	60	65	60
	PM	55	55	55	60	55
Industrial (L)	AM	55	60	60	65	60
	PM	50	55	55	60	55
Industrial (H)	AM	60	65	65	70	65
	PM	55	60	60	65	60
Agricultural	AM	60	60	60	65	60
	PM	55	55	55	60	55

*As determined at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards may be applied on the receptor side of noise barriers at the property line.

AM = 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM

PM = 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM

L = Light

H = Heavy

Note: Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for pure tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g. caretaker dwellings).

Vibration perception threshold: The minimum ground or structure-borne vibrational motion necessary to cause a normal person to be aware of the vibration by such direct means as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation of moving objects. The perception threshold shall be presumed to be a motion velocity of one-tenth (0.1) inches per second over the range of one to one hundred Hz.

Reaction of People and Damage to Buildings from Continuous Vibration Levels		
Velocity Level, PPV (in/sec)	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings

0.006 to 0.019	Threshold of perception; possibility of intrusion	Damage of any type unlikely
0.08	Vibration readily perceptible	Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected
0.10	Continuous vibration begins to annoy people	Virtually no risk of architectural damage to normal buildings
0.20	Vibration annoying to people in buildings	Risk of architectural damage to normal dwellings such as plastered walls or ceilings
0.4 to 0.6	Vibration considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations vibration	Architectural damage and possibly minor structural damage

Source: Whiffen and Leonard 1971

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact.

Natural gas drilling will have no affect on population and housing in the area, thus there is no impact.

(b) No Impact.

Natural gas drilling will have no affect on population and housing in the area, thus there is no impact.

(c) No Impact.

Natural gas drilling will have no affect on population and housing in the area, thus there is no impact.

According to the California Department of Finance, in January of 2012, the County wide population was 152,074 with a total of 49,334 housing units. This works out to an average of 3.33 persons per housing unit. The vacancy rate was 11.84%.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a-i) Less than Significant Impact

While gas exploration wells are designed and constructed with the utmost safety in mind, there is still the potential for explosions and fire. Day to day operations will have a less than significant impact on the need for fire services.

(a-ii) Less than Significant Impact

There is the potential of vandalism on site and thus require incidental need for law enforcement protection.

(a-iii) No Impact

No schools will be required to be constructed as a result of this project.

(a-iv) No Impact

No parks will be required to be constructed as a result of this project. The Madera County General Plan allocates three acres of park available land per 1,000 residents' population.

(a-v) No Impact

No other public facilities will be required to be constructed as a result of this project.

The Madera County Fire Department exists through a contract between Madera County and the CALFIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention) and operates six stations for County responses in addition to the state-funded CALFIRE stations for state responsibility areas. Under an “Amador Plan” contract, the County also funds the wintertime staffing of four fire seasonal CALFIRE stations. In addition, there are ten paid-call (volunteer) fire companies that operate from their own stations. The administrative, training, purchasing, warehouse, and other functions of the Department operate through a single management team with County Fire Administration.

The building construction will be governed by the requisite Building, Life, Safety and Fire Codes applicable at the time of construction. The mitigation tied to this finding is written in such a manner as to leave open as to what year the applicable codes will be enforced at the time of construction. This will ensure that the most current codes are followed instead of being tied to outdated codes.

A Federal Bureau of Investigations 2009 study suggests that there is on average of 2.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population for all reporting counties. The number for cities had an average of 1.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population.

Single Family Residences have the potential for adding to school populations. The average per Single Family Residence is:

Grade	Student Generation per Single Family Residence
K – 6	0.425
7 – 8	0.139
9 – 12	0.214

XV. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact.

The project will have no impacts to existing parks, or require the provision of new or additional facilities.

(b) No Impact.

The project will have no impacts to existing parks, or require the provision of new or additional facilities.

The Madera County General Plan allocates three acres of park available land per 1,000 residents' population.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures or other standards, established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

Currently there is an access point off of Avenue 18 ½.

(b) No Impact

The project will not result in conflict with applicable congestion management programs.

(c) No Impact

The project will not result in changes to air traffic patterns.

(d) No Impact

The project will not substantially increase hazards due to design features.

(e) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation

Access will be taken off of Avenue 18 ½ which is a County maintained road. Due to the condition of the private roads, turnouts will be necessary to allow the passage of emergency vehicles in case of an event.

(f) No Impact

The project is located in a rural agricultural area where alternative transportation will not be impacted.

Madera County currently uses Level Of Service “D” as the threshold of significance level for roadway and intersection operations. The following charts show the significance of those levels.

Level of Service	Description	Average Control Delay (sec./car)
A	Little or no delay	0 – 10
B	Short traffic delay	>10 – 15
C	Medium traffic delay	> 15 – 25
D	Long traffic delay	> 25 – 35
E	Very long traffic delay	> 35 – 50
F	Excessive traffic delay	> 50

Unsignalized intersections.

Level of Service	Description	Average Control Delay (sec./car)
A	Uncongested operations, all queues clear in single cycle	< 10
B	Very light congestion, an occasional phase is fully utilized	>10 – 20
C	Light congestion; occasional queues on approach	> 20 – 35
D	Significant congestion on critical approaches, but intersection is functional. Vehicles required to wait through more than one cycle during short peaks. No long-standing queues formed.	> 35 – 55
E	Severe congestion with some long-standing queues on critical approaches. Traffic queues may block nearby	> 55-80

	intersection(s) upstream of critical approach(es)	
F	Total breakdown, significant queuing	> 80

Signalized intersections.

Level of service	Freeways	Two-lane rural highway	Multi-lane rural highway	Expressway	Arterial	Collector
A	700	120	470	720	450	300
B	1,100	240	945	840	525	350
C	1,550	395	1,285	960	600	400
D	1,850	675	1,585	1,080	675	450
E	2,000	1,145	1,800	1,200	750	500

Capacity per hour per lane for various highway facilities

Madera County is predicted to experience significant population growth in the coming years (62.27 percent between 2008 and 2030). Accommodating this amount of growth presents a challenge for attaining and maintain air quality standards and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The increase in population is expected to be accompanied by a similar increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (61.36 percent between 2008 and 2030).

Horizon Year	Total Population (thousands)	Employment (thousands)	Average Weekday VMT (millions)	Total Lane Miles
2010	175	49	5.4	2,157
2011	180	53	5.5	NA
2017	210	63	6.7	NA
2020	225	68	7.3	2,264
2030	281	85	8.8	2,277

Source: MCTC 2007 RTP

The above table displays the predicted increase in population and travel. The increase in the lane miles of roads that will serve the increase in VMT is estimated at 120 miles or 0.94 percent by 2030. This indicates that roadways in Madera County can be expected to become much more crowded than is currently experienced.

Emissions of CO (Carbon Monoxide) are the primarily mobile-source criteria pollutant of local concern. Local mobile-source CO emissions near roadway intersections are a direct function of traffic volume, speed and delay. Carbon monoxide transport is extremely limited; it disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, however, CO concentrations close to congested roadway or intersection may reach unhealthy levels, affecting local sensitive receptors (residents, school children, hospital patients, the elderly, etc.). As a result, the SJVAPCP recommends analysis of CO emissions of at a local rather than regional level. Local CO concentrations at intersections projected to operate at level of service (LOS) D or better do not typically exceed national or state ambient air quality standards. In addition, non-signalized intersections located within areas having relatively low background concentrations do not typically have sufficient

traffic volumes to warrant analysis of local CO concentrations.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

No impacts have been identified.

(b) No Impact

Project consists of a natural gas well which will not require new water treatment facilities.

(c) No Impact

The proposed facility will not impact an existing storm water drainage facility

(d) No Impact

No impacts have been identified.

(e) No Impact

There is no wastewater provided to this area.

(f) No Impact

The project is served by the Fairmead landfill. The amounts of waste generated by the project will be minor.

(g) No Impact

The project is served by the Fairmead landfill. The amounts of waste generated by the project will be minor.

General Discussion

Madera County has 34 County Service Areas and Maintenance Districts that together operate 30 small water systems and 16 sewer systems. Fourteen of these special districts are located in the Valley Floor, and the remaining 20 special districts are in the Foothills and Mountains. MD-1 Hidden Lakes, Bass Lake (SA-2B and SA-2C) and SA-16 Sumner Hill have surface water treatment plants, with the remaining special districts relying solely on groundwater.

The major wastewater treatment plants in the County are operated in the incorporated cities of Madera and Chowchilla and the community of Oakhurst. These wastewater systems have been recently or are planned to be upgraded, increasing opportunities for use of recycled water. The cities of Madera and Chowchilla have adopted or are in the process of developing Urban Water Management Plans. Most of the irrigation and water districts have individual groundwater management plans. All of these agencies engage in some form of groundwater recharge and management.

Groundwater provides almost the entire urban and rural water use and about 75 percent of the agricultural water use in the Valley Floor. The remaining water demand is met with surface water. Almost all of the water use in the Foothills and Mountains is from groundwater with only three small water treatment plants relying on surface water from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

In areas of higher precipitation (Oakhurst, North Fork, and the topographically higher part of the Coarsegold Area), groundwater recharge is adequate for existing uses. However, some problems have been encountered in parts of these areas due to well interference and groundwater quality issues. In areas of lower precipitation (Raymond-Hensley Lake and the lower part of the Coarsegold area), groundwater recharge is more limited, possibly requiring additional water supply from other sources to support future development.

Madera County is served by a solid waste facility (landfill) in Fairmead. There is a transfer station in North Fork. The Fairmead facility also provides for Household Hazardous Materials collections on Saturdays. The unincorporated portion of the County is served by Red Rock Environmental Group.

Above the 1000 foot elevation, residents are served by EMADCO services for solid waste pick-up.

XVIII MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The project does not have the potential to degrade fish and wildlife, or their habitat, or to eliminate major periods of California history or prehistory to any significant levels based on project operations. The project is compatible with the surrounding area under a Conditional Use Permit, and no unique impacts would occur to affect on-site or adjacent environmental resources.

(b) No Impact

The project is natural gas well which is compatible with a Conditional Use Permit in an agriculturally zoned area. There is little opportunity for incremental impacts to occur from past or future projects in addition to the current project. The project does not have impacts which would be considered cumulatively significant.

(c) No Impact

No adverse impacts to human beings would be created by the project, either directly or indirectly.

CEQA defines three types of impacts or effects:

- Direct impacts are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place (CEQA §15358(a)(1).
- Indirect or secondary impacts are reasonably foreseeable and are caused by a project but occur at a different time or place. They may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (CEQA §15358(a)(2).
- Cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (CEQA §15355(b)). Impacts from individual projects may be considered minor, but considered retroactively with other projects over a period of time, those impacts could be significant, especially where listed or sensitive species are involved.

**Documents/Organizations/Individuals Consulted
In Preparation of this
Initial Study**

Madera County General Plan

California Department of Finance

California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)

California Integrated Waste Management Board

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Caltrans website http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm accessed October 31, 2008

California Department of Fish and Game "California Natural Diversity Database"
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

Madera County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Madera County Department of Environmental Health

Madera County Department of Engineering

Madera County Roads Department

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011 and 2012, with 2010 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2012

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

MND

RE: Conditional Use Permit #2009-003 – Triangle T Ranch

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The application for conditional use permit is to allow the exploration of, and potential drilling of, natural gas. The subject property is located on the south side of Avenue 14, approximately 1.1 miles south of the terminus of Avenue 14, T11S, R14E, section 34 (No Situs), Firebaugh.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

No adverse environmental impact is anticipated from this project. The following mitigation measures are included to avoid any potential impacts.

BASIS FOR NEGATIVE DECLARATION:

The following conditions and mitigation measures are specifically included as a part of the negative declaration.

Madera County Environmental Committee

A copy of the negative declaration and all supporting documentation is available for review at the Madera County Planning Department, 2037 West Cleveland Avenue, Madera, California.

DATED: August 5, 2014

FILED:

PROJECT APPROVED:

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

MND # 2014-018

No.	Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Action Indicating Compliance	Verification of Compliance		
						Initials	Date	Remarks
Aesthetics								
1	Any proposed lighting shall be hooded and directed away from surrounding properties and roadways (County Code 18.102.120.J),	Operations	Madera County Planning Department	Madera County Planning Department				
Agricultural Resources								
Air Quality								
1	Applicant is to obtain and maintain conditions of all permits required by the Air Resources Board,	Construction	Madera County Planning Department	Madera County Planning Department				
Biological Resources								
Cultural Resources								
Geology and Soils								
Hazards and Hazardous Materials								

No.	Mitigation Measure	Monitoring Phase	Enforcement Agency	Monitoring Agency	Action Indicating Compliance	Verification of Compliance		
						Initials	Date	Remarks
1	All wastes, hazardous and non-hazardous, and any type of liquids wastes generated from gas well construction activities and from employees of the construction and operation company must be characterized and disposed of in an approve manner	Construction / Operations	Madera County Planning Department	Madera County Planning Department				
Hydrology and Water Quality								
Land Use and Planning								
Mineral Resources								
Noise								
1	Noise associated with the construction and operations of this project shall conform to the Noise Standards of the County's General Plan.	Construction	Madera County Planning Department	Madera County Planning Department				
Population and Housing								
Public Services								
Recreation								
Transportation and Traffic								
1	All circulation elements of the project (roads, parking areas, etc.) are to be constructed and maintained in a dust free manner.	Construction	Madera County Planning Department	Madera County Planning Department				
Utilities and Service Systems								