

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
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**PLANNING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

December 9, 2015

RE: KERN COUNTY PERMITTING FOR OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES – TIER 2

Effective December 9, 2015, a Kern County Oil and Gas Conformity Review permit is required for the drilling of new oil and gas wells and certain other activities associated with oil exploration and extraction.

Elements of the process include the following:

- Oil and gas companies (Applicants) must provide Land/Surface Owners with notification and a copy of the proposed site plan for their proposed oil and gas activities 30 days before submitting the application to the county for processing.
- Land that is in Tier 2 areas (Figure 19.98.015, Kern County Zoning Ordinance) require the signature of the surface owner on the site plan to allow an expedited process. An application for an Oil and Gas Conformity Review submitted without the Surface Owners signature will be processed under a schedule of reviews and consultations that will take up to 120 days to complete before a site plan that complies with all requirements will be approved. Staff of the Planning and Community Development Department will be contacting you after the application is submitted to discuss the process. There is no public hearing required and you will be notified again when the application is submitted to the County for review.
- An Environmental Impact Report was completed and certified for this proposed Oil and Gas Conformity Review or Minor Activity Review and mitigation measures adopted that will address environmental impacts.
- Land/Surface Owners may waive the requirements for their signature on the site plan through notification in writing to the County.
- The regulations are fully contained in the Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter (19.98) and can be accessed at the Planning and Community Development Department Oil and Gas Page (<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/KCZODec15.pdf>).

County Staff is available to meet at your convenience with you and any representatives you wish to bring, to provide information on the process, requirements of the Ordinance, adopted mitigation measures and discuss the applicant's draft site plan. Contact Shawn Beyeler at (661) 862-8614 or by email at BeyelerS@co.kern.ca.us for appointment or with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorelei H. Oviatt".

LORELEI H OVIATT, AICP, Director
Kern County Planning and Community Development Department