

2040 GPU Policy

COS-7.4 Electrically-Powered Equipment for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

The County shall require discretionary development for oil and gas exploration and production to use electrically-powered equipment from 100 percent renewable sources and cogeneration, where feasible, to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from internal combustion engines and equipment.

County Clarification

As used in the policy, “where feasible” applies to the policy as a whole.

2040 GPU Policies

COS-7.2 Oil Well Distance Criteria

The County shall require **new discretionary oil wells** to be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from residential dwellings and 2,500 from any school.

COS-7.7 Conveyance for Oil and Produced Water

The County shall require **new discretionary oil wells** to use pipelines to convey oil and produced water; oil and produced water shall not be trucked.

COS-7.8 Gas Collection, Use, and Disposal

The County shall require that gases emitted from all **new discretionary oil and gas wells** shall be collected and used or removed for sale or proper disposal. Flaring or venting shall only be allowed in cases of emergency or for testing purposes.

County Clarification

The meaning of the phrases “new discretionary oil wells” and “new discretionary oil and gas wells” (referred to as “new discretionary wells”) under Policies COS-7.2, COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 are clarified as follows:

(1) The application of these policies is to be interpreted according to their plain meaning, as applying to new discretionary wells. As specified below, that means the policies apply to development only if (i) that development is a well, (ii) the well is new, and (iii) the new well is subject to a discretionary approval action by the County. This clarification equally applies to Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 if these policies are amended to the form set forth in the FEIR as Mitigation Measures PR-2 and PR-3, respectively.

(i) The policies apply only to wells, and do not apply to ancillary facilities or activities, or to facilities other than wells.

(ii) The policies apply only to new wells. New wells are newly drilled wells separate from any existing well. New wells do not include the modification of permit terms applicable to existing wells. New wells do not include a re-drill or sidetrack of an existing well. New wells do not include downhole activities (including activities generally subject to state jurisdiction by CalGEM) such as tubing changes, pump or other equipment changes, or changes in the status of the existing well. The re-use of an existing but abandoned well using a surface borehole in the same location is not a new well.

(iii) The policies apply to new wells that require a discretionary permit approval from the County. Approvals that are ministerial under the terms of existing permits or under the applicable provisions of the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance or Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, as applicable to the development (“County Zoning Ordinance”) are not discretionary approvals.

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COS-7.2 Oil Well Distance Criteria

The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from residential dwellings and 2,500 from any school.

County Clarification

- Based upon the wording of this policy as applying to dwellings and schools, and upon the applicable provisions of the County Zoning Ordinance, this policy shall be applied to residential dwellings based on the distance from the well head to the structure comprising the closest residential dwelling unit.
- This policy shall be applied to schools based on the distance from the well head to the closest school facilities.
- Thomas Aquinas College is not a “school” for the purpose of this policy, as stated in the FEIR and based on the definition of “school” in the County Zoning Ordinance.

Policy COS-7.7: Limited Conveyance for Oil and Produced Water. The County shall require new discretionary oil wells to use pipelines to convey crude oil and produced water, if feasible.; ~~oil and produced water shall not be trucked.~~ Trucking of crude oil and produced water may only be allowed if the proponent demonstrates that conveying the oil and produced water via pipeline is infeasible. In addition, trucking of crude oil and produced water is allowed in cases of emergency and for testing purposes consistent with federal, state and local regulations.

Policy COS-7.8: Limited Gas Collection, Use, and Disposal. The County shall require that gases emitted from all new discretionary oil and gas wells be collected and used or removed for sale or proper disposal, if feasible. Flaring or venting ~~shall~~ may only be allowed if the proponent demonstrates that conducting operations without flaring or venting is infeasible. In addition, flaring or venting is allowed in cases of emergency or and for testing purposes consistent with federal, State, and local regulations.