

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 24-01

**PROPOSED COUNTY-INITIATED AMENDMENTS
TO VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN POLICIES COS-7.7
AND COS-7.8 REGARDING OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2023, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) directed County of Ventura (“County”) staff to process proposed amendments to Ventura County 2040 General Plan (“General Plan”) Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 as described below;

WHEREAS, General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 currently read as follows:

Policy 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.

Policy 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.

WHEREAS, General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 are proposed to be amended to read as shown in legislative format below:

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 and for testing purposes consistent with federal, state, and local regulations.

WHEREAS, pursuant to this Board direction, on February 1, 2024, the Ventura County Planning Commission held a legally noticed public hearing to consider, and to make a recommendation to the Board regarding, the proposed General Plan amendments;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), the Board previously certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) (SCH No. 2019011026) evaluating the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse environmental effects that may occur from implementation of the General Plan;

WHEREAS, the County has prepared Addendum No. 1 to the certified EIR to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed amendments to General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8. As the Addendum analyzes and explains in detail, the proposed General Plan amendments do not require any changes or revisions to the General Plan EIR or result in the occurrence of any of the conditions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR. To the contrary, the General Plan amendments would implement mitigation measures that were included in the 2040 General Plan EIR itself to mitigate potentially significant impacts that existing Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 were determined to have on the availability of local petroleum resources. By adopting the mitigation measures recommended in the 2040 General Plan EIR, the General Plan amendments would mitigate the significant and unavoidable impact to loss of availability of a known petroleum resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state (Impact 4.12-4), which was listed previously in the CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations. This impact would now be less than significant as described in the 2040 General Plan EIR. Consequently, the County has determined that the Addendum is the appropriate CEQA document for the General Plan amendment project;

WHEREAS, the Commission considered all written and oral testimony from County staff and the public on this matter;

WHEREAS, after the close of the public hearing, Planning Commissioner McPhail made a motion to approve staff's recommended actions, seconded by Vice-Chair Kestly; and

WHEREAS, the motion carried by the vote of 4 – 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the following actions be taken by the Board with respect to the proposed General Plan amendments:

1. **CERTIFY** that the Board has reviewed and considered the Board letter and all exhibits thereto, the Planning Commission staff report and all exhibits thereto, and has considered all other materials and public comments received during the public comment and hearing processes;
2. **ADOPT** Addendum No. 1 to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH No. 2019011026) and **FIND** that the County's approval of the proposed amendments to General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 do not require any changes or revisions to EIR and that none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred;

3. **FIND** that the proposed amendments to General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 are consistent with the goals, policies and implementation programs of the Ventura County General Plan and good planning practices and are in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare;
4. **APPROVE** the amendments to General Plan Policies COS-7.7 and COS-7.8 as set forth above; and
5. **SPECIFY** the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 as the location and custodian of the documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which these decisions are based.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution reflecting the actions taken by the Ventura County Planning Commission at a public hearing regarding the above-described matter on February 1, 2024.



Dave Ward, AICP
Secretary to the Ventura County
Planning Commission