

Oil and Gas Extraction Goals, Programs, and Policy Excerpts

Ventura County General Plan

The General Plan, which is mandated by state law, sets forth the goals, policies and directions the County will take in managing its future. The General Plan is the embodiment of the citizen's vision for the future of unincorporated Ventura County.

The following are excerpts from the General Plan's Goals, Programs, and Policies as they relate to oil and gas extraction activities in the County. Goals, Programs, and Policies relating to Oil and Gas extraction within the Coastal Area Plan, and the El Rio/Del Norte, North Ventura Avenue, Ojai Valley, and Puri Area Plans are in separate documents. The Goals, Programs, and Policies of the General Plan are applicable to all new discretionary oil and gas development projects, and the applicable area plan Goals, Programs, and Policies would apply to new discretionary oil and gas development projects within the subject Area Plan boundaries.

The full County of Ventura General Plan [can be found by clicking here](#).

The County of Ventura Coastal Area Plan & Local Coastal Plan, and the El Rio/Del Norte, North Ventura Avenue, Ojai Valley, and Piru Area Plans [can be found by clicking here](#).

Conservation and Open Space Element

Goals

- **COS-7** - To effectively and safely manage the exploration, production, and drilling of oil and gas resources in Ventura County.

Programs

- **COS-L Oil and Gas Well Stimulation Treatment** - The County shall require discretionary projects that include fracking, well stimulation treatment, cyclic steaming, and/or steam flooding be evaluated for potential effects on ground water contamination, exacerbation of seismic activity, water use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and other impacts.
- **COS-M Oil and Gas Tax** - The County shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing a local tax on all oil and gas operations located in the unincorporated county.

- **COS-NN Oil and Gas Setbacks** - By 2022, the County shall conduct a study of going to 2,500-foot setback(s) that should be required between oil wells and related extraction facilities and surrounding sensitive receptors for a future potential General Plan amendment.

Policies

- **COS-7.1 Minimum Site Area** - The County shall only approve discretionary development for oil and gas development if the area of ground disturbance constitutes the minimum necessary to accomplish the project objectives. (Goal COS-7)
- **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. (Goal COS-7)
- **COS-7.3 Compliance with Current Policies, Standards, and Conditions** - The County shall require new or modified discretionary development permits for oil and gas exploration, production, drilling, and related operations be subject to current State and County policies, standards, and conditions. (Goal COS-7)
- **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. (Goal COS-7)
- **COS-7.5 Restoration and Revegetation of Sites Used for Oil and Gas Exploration, Extraction, and Production** - The County shall require that discretionary development for oil and gas exploration activities be conditioned to require the restoration and revegetation of the site if the exploration does not result in oil and gas production facilities. (Goal COS-7)
- **COS-7.6 Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Identification** - The County shall evaluate discretionary development to identify any abandoned oil and gas wells on the project site.
- **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. (Goal COS-7)
- **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. (Goal COS-7)

Hazards and Safety Element

Goals

- **HAZ-4** - To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of habitable structures, and economic and social dislocations resulting from geologic and seismic hazards.
- **HAZ-7** - To reduce or mitigate the effects of marine oil spills or onshore oil pipeline spills upon the population and environment.

Programs

- **HAZ-K Marine Oil Spill Response Planning** - For County facilities that could potentially be the source of a marine oil spill or onshore oil spill, the County shall develop, exercise, review, and share their prevention and response plans with regulatory and emergency agencies. The County shall also continue to participate in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response Area Contingency Plan process.

Policies

- **HAZ-4.2 Linear Project Intersection with Active Faults** - The County shall require that linear projects, including roads, streets, highways, utility conduits, water transmission facilities, and oil and gas pipelines, avoid intersecting active faults to the extent possible. When such locations are unavoidable, the project design shall include measures to minimize the effects of any fault movement. (Goal HAZ-4)
- **HAZ-4.15 Subsidence Hazard - Extraction Wells** - The County shall require that potential ground surface subsidence be evaluated prior to approval of new oil, gas, water or other extraction well drilling permits and appropriate and sufficient safeguards are incorporated into the project design and facility operation. (Goal HAZ-4)
- **HAZ-7.1 Oil Spill Prevention** - The County shall review and analyze all proposed oil and gas exploration and production projects, and shall condition all County discretionary permits for such projects, to require compliance with local, state, and federal oil spill prevention regulations. The County shall also provide input and comments on permit applications that are under the purview of an outside agency. (Goal HAZ-7)

Water Resources Element

Goals

- **WR-4** - To maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity and quantity of groundwater resources.

Policies

- **WR-4.7 Discretionary Development and Conditions of Approval - Oil, Gas, and Water Wells** - The County shall require that discretionary development be subject to conditions of approval requiring proper drilling and construction of new oil, gas, and water wells and removal and plugging of all abandoned wells on-site. (Goal WR-4)