

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
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Fax: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@ kerncounty.com
Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: June 9, 2023

TO: See Attached Mailing List

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
Attn: Cindi Hoover
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 862-8629; HooverC@kerncounty.com

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT (EIR) FOR THE CARBONFRONTIER CARBON CAPTURE
SEQUESTRATION (CCS) PROJECT BY AERA ENERGY, LLC.**

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15062) has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (per CEQA Guidelines 15161) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The Planning and Natural Resources Department solicits the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval of the project.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **July 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above or to HooverC@kerncounty.com. A Scoping Meeting will be held on **Friday, June 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address listed above.

PROJECT TITLE: CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC (PP23402); PLN22-00137: ZCC No. 4, Map No. 51; ZCC No. 3, Map No. 74; ZCC No. 4, Map No. 75; CUP No. 9, Map No. 51; CUP No. 7, Map No. 74; CUP No. 7, Map No. 75; CUP No. 9, Map No. 96.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located within the Central Valley portion of unincorporated Kern County and is comprised of forty-seven (47) privately owned parcels and two (2) provisional parcels, within the administrative boundaries of the North and South Belridge oilfields. The North and South Belridge oilfields are contiguous and located west of Highway 33, approximately seven miles southwest of the community of Lost Hills (population 2,370). Additionally, the proposed project is located within Sections 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 20 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12 of Township 28 South, Range 20 East; Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 28 South Range 21 East; and Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Township 29 South, Range 21 East of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proponent is proposing to construct and operate a CCS project within the North and South Belridge oilfields. Implementation of the proposed project includes the following requests:

- Zone Classification Change (ZCC) from A-1 (limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737 acres and from NR (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres.
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a CCS facility, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of CO₂ on approximately 13,229 acres. CCS has been determined to be a storage operation under the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.08.085 and Section 19.06.020. Therefore, CCS in either existing formation or tanks is an allowed use with a CUP in the following districts:
 - A District (Exclusive Agriculture)
 - M-2 District (Medium Industrial)
 - M-3 District (Heavy Industrial)

The proposed project would capture CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field and transport it by pipeline to dedicated Class VI injection wells within the North Belridge oil field to be injected into identified geologically confined reservoirs for storage. The underground CCS formation is a depleted oil and gas reservoir with saline formation water. The CO₂ distribution pipelines, and associated infrastructure would be new construction. Implementation of the project would also require permits from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to nine (9) Class VI injection wells in compliance with the UIC Program for Class VI injection wells (40 CFR 146.81 et seq.).

The proposed project area has been identified as a location suitable for such storage and a potential to contribute to California's goals for carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing industrial uses to no net contribution and potentially supporting direct removal of CO₂ from the air. California executive order B-55-18 mandates that the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/2019/12/19/getting-to-neutral/>).

Documents can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

Signature: 
Name: Cindi Hoover, Planning Division Chief

CarbonFrontier CCS Project (AERA)
Agency, Interested Party, & Tribal List

Justin Ong
266 Canyon Lakes Place
San Ramon CA 94582

City of Arvin
P.O. Box 548
Arvin, CA 93203

Bakersfield City Planning Dept
1715 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Bakersfield City Public Works Dept
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

California City Planning Dept
21000 Hacienda Blvd.
California City, CA 93515

Delano City Planning Dept
P.O. Box 3010
Delano, CA 93216

City of Maricopa
P.O. Box 548
Maricopa, CA 93252

City of McFarland
401 West Kern Avenue
McFarland, CA 93250

City of Ridgecrest
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

City of Shafter
336 Pacific Avenue
Shafter, CA 93263

City of Taft
Planning & Building
209 East Kern Street
Taft, CA 93268

City of Tehachapi
Attn: John Schlosser
115 South Robinson Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561-1722

City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Inyo County Planning Dept
P.O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526

Kings County Planning Agency
1400 West Lacey Blvd, Bldg 6
Hanford, CA 93230

Los Angeles Co Reg Planning Dept
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Bernardino Co Planning Dept
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

San Luis Obispo Co Planning Dept
Planning and Building
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Santa Barbara Co Resource Mgt Dept
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tulare County Planning & Dev Dept
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

Ventura County RMA Planning Div
800 South Victoria Avenue, L1740
Ventura, CA 93009-1740

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente/Bakersfield
35126 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Federal Communications Comm
18000 Studebaker Road, #660
Cerritos, CA 90701

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Ecological Services
2800 Cottage Way #W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX Office
75 Hawthorn Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

U.S. Dept of Agriculture/NRCS
5080 California Avenue, Ste 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309-0711

State Air Resources Board
Stationary Resource Division
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

So. San Joaquin Valley Arch Info Ctr
California State University of Bkfd
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Caltrans/Dist 6
Planning/Land Bank Bldg.
P.O. Box 12616
Fresno, CA 93778

State Clearinghouse
Office of Planning and Research
1400 - 10th Street, Room 222
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Director's Office
801 "K" Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
11000 River Run Boulevard
Bakersfield, CA 93311

State Dept of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management Division
801 "K" Street, MS 20-20
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Office of the State Geologist
Headquarters
801 "K" Street, MS 12-30
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Dept of Conservation
Office of Land Conservation
801 "K" Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State University
Bakersfield - Library
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93309

California Energy Commission
James W. Reed, Jr.
1516 Ninth Street
Mail Stop 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish & Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

California Regional Water Quality
Control Board/Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2020

State Dept of Toxic Substance Control
Environmental Protection Agency
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93612

Cal Environmental Protection Agency/
Dept of Toxic Substances Control, Reg 1
Attn: Dave Kereazis, Permit Div - CEQA
8800 Cal Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95826

Kern County
Agriculture Department

Kern County Administrative Officer

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Floodplain

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Survey

Kern County
Env Health Services Department

Kern County Fire Dept (Put in FIRE BOX)
Regina Arriaga
Roxanne Routh
Jim Killam

Kern County Fire Dept
Aaron Duncan, Fire Chief

Kern County Library/Beale
Local History Room

Kern County Library/Beale
Andie Sullivan

Kern County Parks & Recreation

Kern County Sheriff's Dept
Administration

Kern County Library
Buttonwillow Branch
116 Buttonwillow Avenue
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Kern County Public Works Department/
Building & Development/Development
Review

Kern County Public Works
Department/Operations &
Maintenance/Regulatory Monitoring &
Reporting

Taft City School Dist
820 North 6th Street
Taft, CA 93268

Wasco Union High School Dist
P.O. Box 250
Wasco, CA 93280

US EPA Region IX
Attn: David Albright
Manager Groundwater Protection Section
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Buttonwillow Union School Dist
42600 Highway 58
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

McKittrick School Dist
P.O. Box 277
McKittrick, CA 93251

Lost Hills Union School Dist
P.O. Box 158
Lost Hills, CA 93249

Kern High School Dist
5801 Sundale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Kern County Superintendent of Schools
Attention School District Facility Services
1300 - 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

KernCOG
1401 19th Street - Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Local Agency Formation Comm/LAFCO
5300 Lennox Avenue, Suite 303
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Kern County Water Agency
3200 Rio Mirada Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308

San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution Control District
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

West Side Mosquito
Abatement Dist.
P.O. Box 205
Taft, CA 93268

Adams, Broadwell, Joseph & Cardozo
Attention: Janet M. Laurain
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Kern Audubon Society
Attn: Frank Bedard, Chairman
4124 Chardonnay Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Los Angeles Audubon
926 Citrus Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036-4929

Center on Race, Poverty
& the Environment
Attn: Marissa Alexander
1999 Harrison Street – Suite 650
San Francisco, CA 94612

Center on Race, Poverty
& the Environmental/
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
1012 Jefferson Street
Delano, CA 93215

Defenders of Wildlife/
Kim Delfino, California Dir
980 - 9th Street, Suite 1730
Sacramento, CA 95814

Native American Heritage Council
of Kern County
Attn: Gene Albrite
3401 Aslin Street
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Pacific Gas & Electric Co
Land Projects
650 "O" Street, First Floor
Fresno, CA 93760-0001

Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter
P.O. Box 3357
Bakersfield, CA 93385

Southern California Gas Co
35118 McMurtrey Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9477

Southern California Gas Co
Transportation Dept
9400 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91313-6511

Verizon California, Inc.
Attention Engineering Department
520 South China Lake Boulevard
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

David Laughing Horse Robinson
P.O. Box 20849
Bakersfield, CA 93390

Leadership Counsel for Justice &
Accountability
1527 - 19th Street, Suite 212
Bakersfield, CA 93301

LIUNA
Attn: Danny Zaragoza
2201 "H" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente/Bakersfield
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308-6837

Gabe Pattee
113 Hwy 128
Geyserville, Ca 95441

North West Kern Resource Cons Dist
5080 California Avenue, Suite 150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Defenders of Wildlife
Sophia Markowska
1212 Wagon Way
Gilroy, CA 95020

Lozeau Drury LLP
1939 Harrison Street, Suite 150
Oakland, CA 94612

CAL FIRE
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-246

Encompass Capital Advisors LLC
Attn: Todd Kantor
200 Park Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10166

California Energy Commission
Attn: Commissioner Douglas
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: President Alice Reynolds
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Dept of Water Resources
San Joaquin Dist.
3374 East Shields Avenue, Room A-7
Fresno, CA 93726

California Dept of Water Resources
Div. Land & Right-of-Way
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Encompass Capital Advisors LLC
Attn: Michael Osburn
200 Park Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10166

Kern County Fire Dept
Kain Linville, Fire Marshall

West Side Rec & Parks Dist
P.O. Box 1406
Taft, CA 93268

Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Dist
P.O. Box 20820
Bakersfield, CA 93390-0820

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Attn: Michael Mirelez,
Cultural Resources Coordinator
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Ryan Nordness
Cultural Resources Analyst
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Anthony Madrigal Jr.
Tribal Grants Administrator
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Buttonwillow County Water Dist
P.O. Box 874
Buttonwillow, CA 93206

Tejon Indian Tribe
Kathy Morgan, Chairperson
1731 Hasti-acres Drive, Suite 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Livermore Lab Foundation
c/o UC Office of Institutional Advancement
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Tejon Indian Tribe
Attn: Collin Rambo
Cultural Resource Management Technician
1731 Hasti Acres Dr., Suite 108
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Attn: Darrell Mike, Tribal Chairman
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

WZI, Inc.
1717 - 28th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

JB Energy Partners
Andrew Bremner
P.O. Box 82515
Bakersfield, CA 93308

LINN Energy, LLC
5201 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

QK Inc,
Chris Mynk
5080 California Ave. Suite 220
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Chevron, USA
9525 Camino Media
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Stanford University
Energy Resources Engineering
Center of Carbon Storage
367 Panama Street
Stanford, CA 94305

Aera
Attn: Cindy Pollard
10000 Ming Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Exxon/Mobil Production Company
Attn: Troy Tranquada
12000 Calle Real
Goleta, CA 93117

CIPA
Attn: Trent Rosenlibe
1200 Discovery Drive, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Hathaway, LLC
Attn: Chad Hathaway
P.O. Box 81385
Bakersfield, CA 93380

IOPA
Attn: Les Clark
4520 California Avenue, Suite 230
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Stantec
Eric Snelling
180 Chorro Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Halliburton
Attn: Steve Pruett
34722 Seventh Standard Road
Bakersfield, CA 93314

Macpherson Oil Company
P.O. Box 5368
Bakersfield, CA 93388

WSPA
Attn: Suzanne Noble
1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 103 Bakersfield,
CA 93311

Seneca Resources Corporation
2131 Mars Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Venoco, Inc.
Attn: Ian Livett
6267 Carpinteria Avenue, Suite 100
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Kern Oil and Refining
7724 East Panama Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Naftex Operating Company
P.O. Box 308
Edison, CA 93220

Mt Poso CoGen Company, LLC
100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Santa Maria, CA 90401

E&B Natural Resources Management
1600 Norris Road
Bakersfield, CA 93309

San Joaquin Refining
3129 Standard Street
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Tricor Refining, LLC
1134 Manor Street
Bakersfield, CA 93308

GE Energy
13000 Jameson Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Ensign
7001 Charity Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Key Energy Services, Inc.
5080 California Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Hess Corporation
1675 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PCL Industrial Services
1500 Union Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307

PLCL Plus Int'l, Inc.
12418-B Rosedale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93312

Vintage Production California
9600 Ming Avenue, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Sturgeon Services Int'l
3511 Gilmore Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Aera Energy
Jamie Swetalla
10000 Ming Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Kern Citizens for Energy
5001 California Avenue, Suite 211
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Weatherford Completions
Attn: Gregg Hurst
5060 California Avenue, Suite 1150
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Total Western
2811 Fruitvale Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Baker Hughes
3901 Fanucchi Way
Shafter, CA 93263

Schlumberger Oilfield Services
2157 Mohawk Street
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Nabors Completion & Production
3651 Pegasus Drive, Suite 101
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Golden Gate University School of Law
Environmental Law and Justice Clinic,
Attn: Lucas Williams, Susann Bradford
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Center for Biological Diversity
Ann K. Brown
Open Government Coordinator
P.O. Box 11374
Portland, OR 97211-0974

California State University Bakersfield
Dr. Lynette Zelezny, Ph.D., M.B.A. President
Mail Stop: 33BCD
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Kern Economic Development Corp
Richard Chapman, President & CEO
2700 M Street, Suite 200,
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dolores Huerta Foundation
Dolores Huerta, President
P.O. Box 2087
Bakersfield, CA 93303

Dolores Huerta Foundation
Camila Chavez, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2087
Bakersfield, CA 93303

Kern Community College District
Dr. Sonya Christian, Chancellor
2100 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern Community College District
Bonita Steele, Ed. D
Director, Programs and Program Development
2100 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

City of Bakersfield
Mayor Karen Goh
Office of the Mayor
1501 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Governor's Office of Business and
Economic Development
Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor & Director
1325 J Street, 18th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Natural Resources Agency Wade
Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Workforce Development Board
Tim Rainey, Executive Director
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Senate
Senator Melissa Hurtado, 14th District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Large Scale Solar Association
Shannon Eddy, Executive Director
2501 Portola Way
Sacramento, CA 95818

Kern County Farm Bureau
Patty Poire, Board President
1800 30th Street, Suite 390
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern County Farm Bureau
Romeo Agbalog, Executive Director
1800 30th Street, Suite 390
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Employers' Training Resource
Aaron Ellis, Assistant CAO
1600 East Belle Terrace
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce
Nick Ortiz, President & CEO
1725 Eye Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers
Brian Holt, Business Manager/Financial
Secretary
3921 Sillect Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93308

Tejon Indian Tribe
Octavio Escobedo, Tribal Chair
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, CA 93203

Building Trades Council
Kern, Inyo, & Mono Counties, AFL-CIO
John Spaulding, Executive Secretary
200 West Jeffrey Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305-2434

Public Policy Institute of California PPIC
Water Policy Center
Ellen Hanak, Vice President, Senior Fellow,
and Director
500 Washington Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94111

Center for Biological Diversity
Victoria Bogdan Tejeda
1212 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94612

Stephen Reid
14223 Harborough Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
Fax: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
Email: planning@ kerncounty.com
Web Address: <http://kernplanning.com/>



**PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning
Community Development
Administrative Operations

DATE: June 9, 2023

TO: Surrounding Property Owners within
1,000 Feet of Project Boundary; and
Interested Parties

FROM: Kern County Planning and Natural
Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93311

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report – CarbonFrontier Carbon Capture Sequestration (CCS) Project by Aera Energy, LLC (PP23402).

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is necessary for the proposed project identified below. The purpose of this letter is to notify interested parties and surrounding property owners within 1,000 feet of the project boundaries of this determination. A copy of the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) prepared for this proposed project is available for viewing at the following Kern County website:

<https://kernplanning.com/planning/notices-of-preparation/>

The purpose of the IS/NOP is to describe the proposed project, specify the project location, and to identify the potential environmental impacts of the project so that Responsible Agencies and interested persons can provide a meaningful response related to potential environmental concerns that should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report.

You are invited to view the NOP and submit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental information in connection with the proposed project should you wish to do so. Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by **July 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** Comments can be submitted to the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department at the address shown above or to HooverC@kerncounty.com. A Scoping meeting will be held on **Friday, June 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** at the address listed above.

Please be advised that any comments received after the dates listed above will still be included in the public record for this project and made available to decision makers when this project is scheduled for consideration at a public hearing. Please also be advised that you will receive an additional notice in the mail once a public hearing date is scheduled for this project. You will also be provided additional opportunities to submit comments at that time.

PROJECT TITLE: CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC (PP23402); PLN22-00137: ZCC No. 4, Map No. 51; ZCC No. 3, Map No. 74; ZCC No. 4, Map No. 75; CUP No. 9, Map No. 51; CUP No. 7, Map No. 74; CUP No. 7, Map No. 75; CUP No. 9, Map No. 96.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project site is located within the Central Valley portion of unincorporated Kern County and is comprised of forty-seven (47) privately owned parcels and two (2) provisional parcels, within the administrative boundaries of the North and South Belridge oilfields. The North and South Belridge oilfields are contiguous and located west of Highway 33, approximately seven (7) miles southwest of the community of Lost Hills (population 2,370). Additionally, the proposed project is located within Sections 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 20 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12 of

Township 28 South, Range 20 East; Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 28 South Range 21 East; and Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Township 29 South, Range 21 East of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proponent is proposing to construct and operate a CCS project within the North and South Belridge oilfields. Implementation of the proposed project includes the following requests:

- Zone Classification Change (ZCC) from A-1 (limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737 acres and from NR (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres.
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a CCS facility, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of CO₂ on approximately 13,229 acres. CCS has been determined to be a storage operation under the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.08.085 and Section 19.06.020. Therefore, CCS in either existing formation or tanks is an allowed use with a CUP in the following districts:
 - A District (Exclusive Agriculture)
 - M-2 District (Medium Industrial)
 - M-3 District (Heavy Industrial)

The proposed project would capture CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field and transport it by pipeline to dedicated Class VI injection wells within the North Belridge oil field to be injected into identified geologically confined reservoirs for storage. The underground CCS formation is a depleted oil and gas reservoir with saline formation water. The CO₂ distribution pipelines, and associated infrastructure would be new construction. Implementation of the project would also require permits from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to nine (9) Class VI injection wells in compliance with the UIC Program for Class VI injection wells (40 CFR 146.81 et seq.).

The proposed project area has been identified as a location suitable for such storage and a potential to contribute to California's goals of for carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing industrial uses to no net contribution and potentially supporting direct removal of CO₂ from the air. California executive order B-55-18 mandates that the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/2019/12/19/getting-to-neutral/>).

Should you have any questions regarding this project, or the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation, please feel free to contact me by phone at (661) 862-8629 or email HooverC@kerncounty.com.

Sincerely,



Cindi Hoover

Division Chief – Plan Development & Special Projects
Planning and Natural Resources Department

By: Keith Alvidrez, Planner I

Attachments: Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

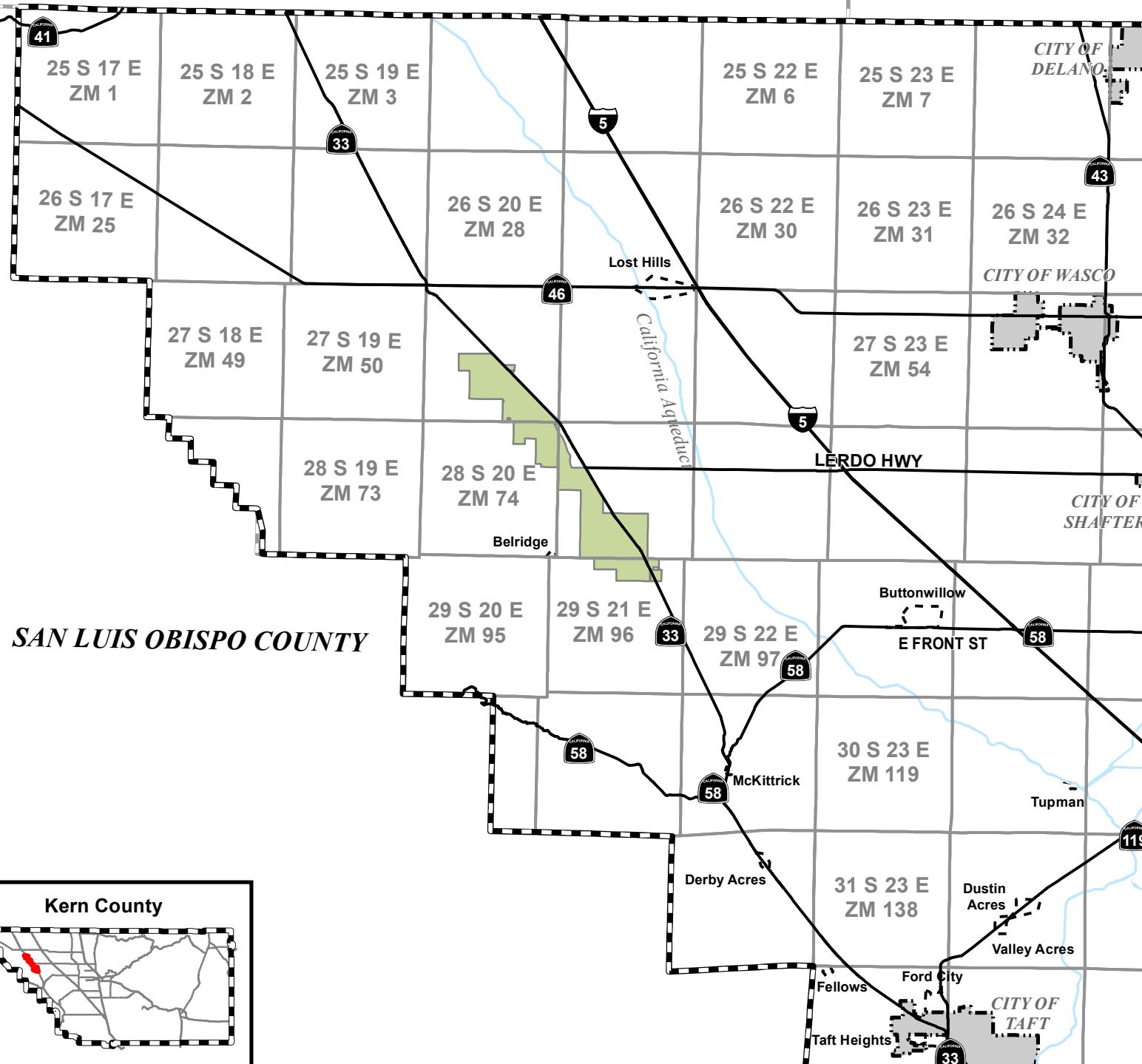
KINGS COUNTY

TULARE COUNTY

ZCC 4, Map 51; ZCC 3, Map 74;
ZCC 4, Map 75; CUP 9, Map 51;
CUP 7, Map 74; CUP 7, Map 75;
CUP 9, Map 96

**Figure 1 -
Regional Vicinity**

CarbonFrontier Project
By: Aera Energy



T27S/R20E- Sec. 20-22; 26-28; 34-36
T28S/R20E - Sec. 1-2 & 11
T28S/R21E- Sec. 6-7; 17-18; 20; 27-29; 32-34
T29S/R21E- Sec. 2-4

Created on: 6/5/2023



Kern County
Planning & Natural
Resources Department

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

CarbonFrontier CCS Project (AERA)
APN List

068 230 14 00 2
AERA ENERGY LLC
P O BOX 11164
BAKERSFIELD CA 93891-1647

068 220 35 00 0
BELRIDGE FARMS & PACKING LLC
PO BOX 11164
BAKERSFIELD CA 93389-1164

068 220 37 00 6
BLOEMER ESTATE LP
4948 ENGLE RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93313-9707

068 210 63 00 8
CATHER-HERLEY OIL CO
P O BOX 7397
LONG BEACH CA 90807-7397

068 220 39 00 2
DIVERSIFIED ROYALTIES LTD
P O BOX 870849
MESQUITE TX 75187-0849

069 150 08 00 9
WONDERFUL CITRUS LLC
5001 CALIFORNIA AV STE 230
BAKERSFIELD CA 93309-0734

068 200 30 00 9
KERN ENTERPRISES LLC
11108 TORBAY DR
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311-2924

068 210 50 00 0
MARAHD PROP LLC
7404 CALLE SAGRADA
BAKERSFIELD CA 93309

098 113 01 00 9
MOBIL OIL CORP
PO BOX 64106
SPRING TX 77387-4106

068 230 05 02 4
WHEELER ROBINSON A & JACQUELYN
APPELL TRUST
2006 ROSEMARY CT
MARTINEZ CA 94553

068 220 09 00 5
BANUELOS ESAUL
16875 HWY 33
LOST HILLS CA 93249

098 113 02 00 2
BELRIDGE WATER STORAGE DIST
P O BOX 1087
BAKERSFIELD CA 93302

068 220 73 00 0
CALIFORNIA RESOURCES PETROLEUM
CORPORATION
27200 TOURNEY RD STE 200
SANTA CLARITA CA 91355-4910

068 210 15 00 9
CHEVRON USA INC
P O BOX 1392
BAKERSFIELD CA 93302-1392

068 220 40 00 4
DIVERSIFIED ROYALTIES LTD
P O BOX 489
SEAGOVILLE TX 75159

068 230 05 04 2
EPSTEIN SUSAN LEVINSON LIV TR
12014 SW 60TH AV
PORTLAND OR 97219-7008

068 210 19 00 1
LALEZARI EHSANALLAH & MAHNAZ
7606 BRAE ACRES CT
HOUSTON TX 77074-4123

068 220 49 00 1
MARIA JOAQUIN BASIN L L C
PO BOX 835
PINEHURST TX 77362

068 220 41 00 7
O DONNELL OIL & SECURITIES CO
1900 DALROCK RD
ROWLETT TX 75088-5526

068 220 71 00 4
AERA ENERGY LLC
10000 MING AV
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311-1301

085 230 48 00 6
BELRIDGE ENERGY RESOURCES INC
P O BOX 5566
BAKERSFIELD CA 93380-5566

085 130 40 00 3
BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY LLC
11117 RIVER RUN BL
BAKERSFIELD CA 93311-8957

068 210 34 00 4
CATHER-HERLEY OIL CO
800 E WARDLOW RD
LONG BEACH CA 90807

085 130 09 02 2
CONROY JOHN J
200 TECUMSEH WY
LOUDON TN 37774-2103

085 230 36 00 1
E & B NATURAL RES MGMT CORP
1608 NORRIS RD
BAKERSFIELD CA 93308-2238

085 110 24 04 7
JENKINS RICHARD & KATHLEEN FAMILY
TRUST
P O BOX 3001
ALPINE WY 83128-3001

085 230 03 00 5
LUNDIN WEBER CO LLC
1900 WASACH DR
LONGMONT CO 80504-3775

068 230 05 07 9
MITCHEL CARYL C CHARITABLE REM TR
1600 HUNTINGTON DR
SOUTH PASADENA CA 91030-4792

085 110 06 00 9
ORYX ENERGY CO
P O BOX 1330
HOUSTON TX 77251-1330

068 220 20 03 3
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO
1 MARKET PZ STE 400
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105-1004

068 200 40 00 8
PAPENHAUSEN KATHLEEN CLANCY TR
PO BOX 1032
PEBBLE BEACH CA 93953-1032

085 130 09 01 3
RICE ROBERT J ET AL
P O BOX 82515
BAKERSFIELD CA 93380

068 220 18 00 1
SAN PABLO BAY PIPELINE COMPANY
LLC
1801 CALIFORNIA ST STE 3600
DENVER CO 80202

068 220 58 00 7
SAN PABLO BAY PIPELINE COMPANY
LLC
370 17TH ST STE 3100
DENVER CO 80202-5631

068 220 05 01 2
SENTINEL PEAK RESOURCES CAL LLC
1200 DISCOVERY DR STE 500
BAKERSFIELD CA 93309

068 210 13 00 3
SILL PROPERTIES INC
1508 18TH ST STE 320
BAKERSFIELD CA 93301

085 130 09 05 9
ST CLAIRE CATHERINE O
7110 SENALDA RD
LOS ANGELES CA 90068-2623

098 112 25 00 2
TORRANCE VALLEY PIPELINE CO LLC
100 CONGRESS AV STE 1900
AUSTIN TX 78701-2750

068 220 30 00 5
VALLEY AG HOLDING LLC
3908 W CALDWELL AV
VISALIA CA 93277

068 200 15 00 6
WONDERFUL NUT ORCHARDS LLC
6801 E LERDO HW
SHAFTER CA 93263-9610

085 230 24 00 6
WEST AMERICAN ENERGY CORP
P O BOX 22016
BAKERSFIELD CA 93390-2016

068 210 27 00 4
WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERV LLC
1400 NE JACK WARNER PKWY
TUSCALOOSA AL 35404

068 210 51 00 3
WESTERVELT ECOLOGICAL SERV LLC
600 N MARKET BL STE 3
SACRAMENTO CA 95834

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

Project Title: CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

Contact Person: Cindi Hoover

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100

Phone: (661) 862-8629

City: Bakersfield

Zip: 93301

County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern

City/Nearest Community: City of Taft, Community of Lost Hills

Cross Streets: Lredo Highway and State Highway 33

Zip Code: 93249 / 93251

Lat. / Long.: 35.49980° N, -119.75522° W (NAD 83)

Total Acres: 13,229

Assessor's Parcel No.: Multi

Section: Multi

Twp.: Multi

Range: Multi

Base: SBB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-33

Waterways: N/A

Airports: N/A

Railways: N/A

Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP
 Early Cons
 Neg Dec
 Mit Neg Dec

Draft EIR
 Supplement/Subsequent EIR
(Prior SCH No.) _____
 Other _____

NEPA: NOI
 EA
 Draft EIS
 FONSI

Other: Joint Document
 Final Document
 Other _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update
 General Plan Amendment
 General Plan Element
 Community Plan

Specific Plan
 Master Plan
 Planned Unit Development
 Site Plan

Rezone
 Prezone
 Use Permit
 Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)

Annexation
 Redevelopment
 Coastal Permit
 Other: _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____

Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual
 Agricultural Land
 Air Quality
 Archeological/Historical
 Biological Resources
 Coastal Zone
 Drainage/Absorption
 Economic/Jobs
 Other: GHG, Wildfire, Tribal Cultural Resources, Energy

Recreation/Parks
 Schools/Universities
 Septic Systems
 Sewer Capacity
 Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
 Solid Waste
 Toxic/Hazardous
 Traffic/Circulation

Vegetation
 Water Quality
 Water Supply/Groundwater
 Wetland/Riparian
 Wildlife
 Growth Inducing
 Land Use
 Cumulative Effects

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Oil and Gas Exploration and Production / A (Exclusive Agriculture), A-1 (Limited Agriculture, NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 acre min) / 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture), 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture), 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum), 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture – Flood Hazard Overlay), 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture – Flood Hazard Overlay), 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum – Flood Hazard Overlay).

Project Description: The CarbonFrontier CCS Project, as proposed by AERA Energy, LLC would develop an approximate 13,229 acre carbon capture and sequestration field, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂). The proposed project would capture CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field and transport it by pipeline to dedicated Class VI injection wells within the North Belridge oil field to be injected into identified geologically confined reservoirs for storage. The underground CCS formation is a depleted oil and gas reservoir with saline formation water. The CO₂ distribution pipelines, and associated infrastructure would be new construction.

Implementation of the proposed project includes the following requests:

- Zone Classification Change (ZCC) from A-1 (limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737 acres and from NR (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres.
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a CCS facility, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of CO₂ on approximately 13,229 acres. CCS has been determined to be a storage operation under the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.08.085 and Section 19.06.020. Therefore, CCS in either existing formation or tanks is an allowed use with a CUP in the following districts:
 - A District (Exclusive Agriculture)
 - M-2 District (Medium Industrial)
 - M-3 District (Heavy Industrial)

Implementation of the proposed project would also require permits from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to nine (9) Class VI injection wells in compliance with the UIC Program for Class VI injection wells (40 CFR 146.81 et seq.).

The proposed project area has been identified as a location suitable for such storage and a potential to contribute to California's goals for carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing industrial uses to no net contribution and potentially supporting direct removal of CO₂ from the air. California executive order B-55-18 mandates that the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/2019/12/19/getting-to-neutral/>).

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency, please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> S Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> X Office of Emergency Services
<input type="checkbox"/> S Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> S California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public-School Construction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X CalFire	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> S Caltrans District # <u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> S Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> S Caltrans Planning (Headquarters)	<input type="checkbox"/> S Regional WQCB # <u>Central</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> S Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> S Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> S Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> S Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> S San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> S Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> S San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> S Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> S Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> S Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> S State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> S Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> S SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> S Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> S Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> S SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> S Fish & Game Region # <u>Fresno</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> S Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> S Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> S Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> S General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> S Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> S Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> S Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> S Integrated Waste Management Board	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 9, 2023 Ending Date July 10, 2023

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____ Applicant: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ /s/ Date: 6/9/2023
Cindi Hoover, Division Chief

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

CarbonFrontier Carbon Capture and Sequestration by Aera Energy, LLC

Zone Change Classification No. 4, Map No. 51; Zone Change Classification No. 3, Map No. 74;
Zone Change Classification No. 4, Map No. 75; Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map No. 51;
Conditional Use Permit No. 7, Map No. 74; Conditional Use Permit No. 7, Map 75;
Conditional Use Permit No. 9, Map 96

PLN22-00137
(PP23402)

LEAD AGENCY:



Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

Contact: Cindi Hoover
(661) 862-8629
hooverc@kerncounty.com

June 2023



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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department (County) will initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the CarbonFrontier Project in the unincorporated area of western Kern County, California.

1. Project Description

1.1. Project Location

The CarbonFrontier Project (proposed project) is a proposal by Aera Energy, LLC (project proponent) to construct and operate a carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) field on approximately 13,229 acres of privately owned land. CCS facilities would be composed of four (4) carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture facilities, up to nine (9) injection wells, up to eight (8) monitoring wells, CO₂ pipelines, and the surface projection of the CO₂ sequestration field capable of storing up to 43 Million Metric Tons (MM Mt) of CO₂.

The proposed project site is located within the Central Valley portion of unincorporated Kern County and is comprised of forty-seven (47) privately owned parcels and two (2) provisional parcels, within the administrative boundaries of the North and South Belridge oilfields. The North and South Belridge oilfields are contiguous and located west of Highway 33, approximately seven miles southwest of the community of Lost Hills (population 2,370).

The proposed project is located within Sections 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 27 South, Range 20 East; Sections 1, 2, and 12 of Township 28 South, Range 20 East; Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 34 of Township 28 South Range 21 East; and Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Township 29 South, Range 21 East of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM). The proposed project area can be seen in Figure 1 – Regional Vicinity.

Primary access to the project site would be from Oasis Road, a private road, accessed from Seventh Standard Road, west of Highway 33, which can be seen in Figure 2 – Local Vicinity. The access road connects to a network of existing dirt roads within the field; depending on the final locations of the injection wells and accessory facilities and infrastructure, new internal access roads may be constructed. These new roads would most likely be compacted dirt roads as well.

1.2. Environmental Setting

The proposed project site is situated in the western extent of the valley region in unincorporated Kern County. The County's geography includes, among other features, mountainous area, agricultural lands, and deserts. Kern County is California's third largest County in land area and encompasses approximately 8,200 square miles with the current estimated population being 914,193 residents.

As previously discussed, the project site is located within the administrative boundary of the South and North Belridge oilfields. Combined, the two oilfields cover an area approximately thirteen (13) miles long and three (3) miles wide. The oil fields are predominantly developed with oil and gas production and accessory facilities and infrastructure. The primary operator within both oilfields is Aera Energy, LLC. The proposed CO₂ capture facilities would be located within the developed portion of the South Belridge oilfield. The proposed injection wells, monitoring wells and CO₂ sequestration field would be located in the North Belridge oilfield. Pipelines would transect both fields. The infield pipelines would primarily be



installed above ground, except where the pipelines would cross main access roads (below ground) within the oil field properties. The CO₂ sequestration field would be comprised of 2,636 acres of land in which CO₂ would be injected and stored underground in a depleted oil and gas reservoir.

The proposed project parcels are not designated by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. However, the proposed project site has two (2) parcels (APN: 068-220-26 and 085-210-42) subject to Farmland Security Zone (FSZ) contracts and three (3) parcels subject to Williamson Act Land Use Contracts; one (1) parcel (APN: 068-210-13) designated as non-prime; one (1) parcel (APN: 068-200-33) designated as mixed; and one (1) parcel (APN: 085-220-37) designated as prime, as shown in *Figure 3 – Active Land Use Contract*. Furthermore, twenty-four (24) parcels are included within the boundaries of Agriculture Preserve numbers 5 and 2, as shown in Figure 4 – Agricultural Preserve.

The proposed project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, under the regulatory authority of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates flood hazard areas on its Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). A majority of the proposed project site is designated as Zone “X” on the FIRMs, which indicates the site is not in an area of flood hazard, as shown in Figure 5 – Flood Hazard. However, portions of the proposed pipeline routes are located within the FIRMs and are designated as Zone “A” flood hazard area, which indicates the site has a 1% chance of flooding. There are no State-designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within the proposed project site. No portion of the project site is identified as a wetland area on the National Wetlands Inventory.

Additionally, the proposed project site is not located within a Kern County-designated mineral recovery zone, however, the majority of the North and South Belridge oilfields are designated by the Kern County General Plan for Mineral and Petroleum exploration and extraction. Please see *Figure 6 – Existing General Plan Designations*. Most parcels within the proposed project boundary have a zone classification of A (Exclusive Agriculture), with the exception of five parcels which have a zone classification of A-1 (Limited Agriculture) and a portion of one (1) parcel which currently has a zone classification of NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) as shown in *Figure 7 – Existing Zoning Classifications*. The project proponent has requested a zone classification change to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on parcels with a current zone classification of A-1 (Limited Agriculture) or NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) *Figure 8 – Proposed Zoning Classifications*.

Table 1: Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Code Designation, Existing and Proposed Zoning, & Acreages, below identifies the individual parcels, their respective assessor parcel numbers (APN), acreages, and existing general plan and zoning designations.



Table 1: Project Assessor Parcel Numbers, Existing Map Code Designation, Existing and Proposed Zoning, & Acreages

APN	Existing Map Code Designation	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Section Township Range	Acres	Land Use Contract/Designation	Agriculture Preserve
068-210-13	8.3	A	A	S20/T27S/R20E	240	Nonprime	Preserve 5
068-210-35	8.3/8.4	A	A	S21/T27S/R20E	120	N/A	Preserve 5
068-210-34	8.3	A	A	S21/T27S/R20E	40	N/A	Preserve 5
068-210-19	8.3	A	A	S21/T27S/R20E	120	N/A	Preserve 5
068-200-30	8.4	A	A	S22/T27S/R20E	44.80	N/A	Preserve 5
068-200-37	8.4	A	A	S22/T27S/R20E	37.23	N/A	Preserve 5
*068-200-41	8.4	A	A	S22/T27S/R20E	66.84	N/A	Preserve 5
068-200-33	8.3/8.4	A	A	S22/T27S/R20E	192.34	Mixed	Preserve 5
068-220-55	8.4	A	A	S34/T27S/R20E	152.36	N/A	Preserve 5
068-220-42	8.4/8.1	A	A	S36/T27S/R20E	123.60	N/A	Preserve 5
*068-220-39	8.4	A	A	S36/T27S/R20E	26.17	N/A	Preserve 5
068-220-37	8.4	A	A	S36/T27S/R20E	18.52	N/A	Preserve 5
068-210-18	8.3/8.4	A	A	S21/T27S/R20E	360	N/A	N/A
068-200-16	8.4	A-1	A	S22/T27S/R20E	40	N/A	N/A
068-230-04	8.3/8.4	A-1	A	S28/T27S/R20E	640	N/A	N/A
068-220-01	8.4	A	A	S27/T27S/R20E	640	N/A	N/A
068-220-36	8.4	A	A	S26/T27S/R20E	324.10	N/A	N/A



KERN COUNTY PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC

068-220-25	8.4	A-1	A	S34/T27S/R20E	40	N/A	N/A
068-220-26	8.4	A	A	S34/T27SR20E	118.85	FSZ	Preserve 5
068-220-13	8.4	A	A	S35/T27S/R20E	640	N/A	N/A
068-220-44	8.4	A	A	S36/T27S/R20E	78.29	N/A	Preserve 5
068-220-08	8.4	A	A	S36/T27S/R20E	80	N/A	N/A
085-110-10	8.4/2.5	A-1	A	S2/T28S/R20E	554.84	N/A	N/A
085-110-13	8.4	A	A	S1/T28S/R20E	160	N/A	N/A
085-110-14	8.4	A	A	S12/T28S/R20E	160	N/A	N/A
085-110-16	8.4	A	A	S12/T28S/R20E	80	N/A	N/A
085-110-32	8.4	A	A	S12/T28S/R20E	382.33	N/A	N/A
085-110-50	8.4/2.5	A-1	A	S1/T28S/R20E	462.54	N/A	N/A
085-190-27	8.1/8.4	A	A	S6/T28S/R21E	64.77	N/A	N/A
085-190-28	8.1/8.4	A	A	S7/T28S/R21E	309.82	N/A	N/A
085-210-43	8.4/2.5	A	A	S18&17/T28S/R21E	530.22	N/A	N/A
085-210-40	8.1/2.5	A	A	S18/T28S/R21E	135.30	N/A	N/A
085-210-42	8.1/2.5	A	A	S17/T28S/R21E	313.16	FSZ	Preserve 5
085-210-18	8.4/2.5	A	A	S20/T28S/R21E	619.15	N/A	N/A
085-230-05	8.4	A	A	S29/T28S/R21E	640	N/A	N/A
085-230-26	8.4/8.1/2.5	A	A	S28/T28S/R21E	493.18	N/A	N/A
085-230-07	8.4/2.5	A	A	S33/T28S/R21E	631.36	N/A	N/A



KERN COUNTY PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CarbonFrontier CCS Project by Aera Energy, LLC

085-230-09	8.4/2.5	A/NR (20)	A	S32/T28S/R21E	636.36	N/A	N/A
085-230-25	8.1/8.4	A	A	S28/T28S/R21E	139.79	N/A	Preserve 5
085-220-36	8.1/2.5	A	A	S27/T28S/R21E	274.99	N/A	Preserve 5
085-220-37	8.1/2.5	A	A	S27/T28S/R21E	366.45	Prime	Preserve 5
085-220-19	8.1/2.5	A	A	S27/T28S/R21E	14.77	N/A	Preserve 5
085-220-21	8.4/2.5	A	A	S34/T28S/R21E	287.87	N/A	N/A
085-220-22	8.4/2.5	A	A	S34/T28S/R21E	336.16	N/A	N/A
098-111-01	8.4	A	A	S3/T29/R21E	315.78	N/A	Preserve 2
098-111-03	8.4/8.3	A	A	S3/T29S/R21E	320	N/A	Preserve 2
098-112-01	8.4	A	A	S2/T29S/R21E	277.07	N/A	Preserve 2
098-112-02	8.4	A	A	S2/T29S/R21E	276.98	N/A	Preserve 2
098-120-10	8.4/8.3	A	A	S4/T29S/R21E	317.04	N/A	Preserve 2

* Provisional Parcel

Kern County General Plan Map Code Designations:

2.5 (Flood Hazard Overlay)

8.1 (Intensive Agriculture)

8.3 (Extensive Agriculture)

8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum)

Kern County Zoning District:

A (Exclusive Agriculture); A-1 (Limited Agriculture); NR (20) (Natural Resource, Min 20 Acre Parcel Size)

Land Use Contract/Designation:

Williamson Act Land Use Contract Designations: Mixed; Prime; Non-Prime

Farmland Security Zone (FSZ) Contract

Surrounding Land Uses

Table 2, Existing Project Site and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, General Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning, identifies the existing land use, the existing general plan land use designation,



and the existing zone classification within the proposed project site. Additionally, such conditions are described for adjacent lands to the north, east, south, and west of the proposed project site.

Table 2: Existing Project Sites and Surrounding Properties, Existing Land Use, General Plan Map Code Designations, and Zoning

Location	Existing Land Use	Existing General Plan Map Code Designations	Existing Zoning
Project Site	Oil and Gas Exploration and Production	8.1 (Intensive Agriculture) 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture) 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) 8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture / Flood Hazard Overlay) 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture / Flood Hazard Overlay) 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum / Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture) A-1 (Limited Agriculture) NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 acre min)
North	Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, Undeveloped Land, Agriculture	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
East	Agriculture	8.1/2.5 (Intensive Agriculture / Flood Hazard Overlay) 8.1 (Intensive Agriculture) 8.3 (Extensive Agriculture)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
South	Oil and Gas Exploration and Production	8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum / Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture)
West	Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, Undeveloped Land	8.3 (Extensive Agriculture) 8.3/2.5 (Extensive Agriculture / Flood Hazard Overlay) 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) 8.4/2.5 (Mineral and Petroleum / Flood Hazard Overlay)	A (Exclusive Agriculture) A-1 (Limited Agriculture)

The surrounding land uses of the proposed project site include oil and gas exploration and production, grazing, and agricultural lands. The closest sensitive receptor to the proposed project site includes one residence approximately 400 feet from the project boundary, and approximately 3,970 feet from the nearest proposed injection well, located east of State Route 33 and adjacent to the North Belridge oilfield. The



nearest schools are Lost Hills Elementary School and A.M. Thomas Middle School located at 20979 Lobos Court approximately six (6) miles northeast of the proposed project site. Additionally, the nearest recreational facility is the Lost Hills Wonderful Park located approximately seven (7) miles northeast of the proposed project site.

The proposed project would be served by the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for law enforcement and public safety, Kern County Fire Department (KCFD) for fire protection, and Kern County Medical Emergency Service for emergency medical and rescue services. The nearest KCSO substation that would serve the project is located in the City of Taft at 315 N. Lincoln Street. Additionally, fire protection and emergency medical service would be provided by the KCFD fire station (Station No. 26) located at 14670 Lost Hills Road in the community of Lost Hills.

The proposed project is not located within an Airport Sphere of Influence (SOI), per the Kern County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). The nearest airport is the Buttonwillow Airport approximately 14 miles southeast of the proposed project site.

1.3. Project Description

Aera Energy, LLC is proposing to construct and operate a CCS project within the North and South Belridge oilfields. The proposed project requires a Zone Classification Change (ZCC) from A-1 (limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737 acres, from NR (Natural Resources – 20 acre minimum) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a CCS capture facility, associated Class VI geologic sequestration injection wells, and related improvements for storage of CO₂ on approximately 13,229 acres. The proposed project CUP boundary is shown in Figure 9 – Proposed Project CUP Boundary.

The project would capture CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field and transport it by pipeline to dedicated Class VI injection wells within the North Belridge oil field to be injected into identified geologically confined reservoirs for storage. The underground CCS formation is a depleted oil and gas reservoir with saline formation water, situated at a depth of approximately 8,500', more than a mile below potential underground sources of drinking water. Prior to project commencement, oil and gas production activities would cease within the underground CCS formation where CO₂ would be stored. The CO₂ distribution pipelines, and associated infrastructure would be new construction and sized to accept CO₂ from existing sources within the South Belridge oil field. This area has been identified as a location suitable for such storage and the potential to contribute to California's goals for carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing industrial uses to no net contribution and potentially supporting direct removal of CO₂ from the air. California executive order B-55-18 mandates that the state achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintain net negative emissions thereafter. (<https://livermorelabfoundation.org/2019/12/19/getting-to-neutral/>).

Implementation of the project would require permits from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for up to nine (9) Class VI injection wells in compliance with the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program for Class VI injection wells (40 CFR 146.81 et seq.). Area of Review (AOR) modeling has been performed to define the anticipated limits of the CCS field. The Area of Review is the region surrounding the geologic sequestration project where Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs) may be endangered by the injection activity. The area of review is delineated using computational modeling that accounts for the physical and chemical properties of all phases of the injected carbon dioxide stream and displaced fluids, and is based on available site characterization, monitoring, and operational data as set



forth in 40 CFR 146.84 (Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Class VI Implementation Manual for UIC Program Directors, EPA 816-R-18-001, January 2018).

All employee facilities needed for the proposed project would be provided by the existing Aera Belridge facilities. Over the life of the proposed project, the CO₂ capture facilities would require on average approximately 918 acre feet per year (AFY). This preliminary estimate is based on seasonal high temperatures and the average daily water use is expected to be less than 26,000 barrels per day.

The proposed project would primarily use produced water from the Belridge oilfield. Fresh water would be minimally used for utility purposes including, but not limited to fire protection, lavatories, showers, equipment cleaning, dust control, grading, compaction, and only used in the process if sufficient water is available under existing water rights. Fresh water would be sourced from existing State Water Project entitlements with the Belridge Water Storage District and from existing Aera-owned groundwater wells located in the Buena Vista Water Storage District. Water treatment facilities would be installed at the CO₂ capture facilities to treat produced water. Pipelines for water would be constructed and installed primarily aboveground connecting the new water treatment facilities to existing water distribution pipelines and water injection wells.

Electrical demand for the proposed project is estimated to be up to 49 megawatts (MW), which will be provided by the existing Section 32 Cogeneration facility and existing utility electrical service connections. If project energy demands are forecasted to exceed existing self-generation and electrical service capacity, a supplemental load request would be pursued with the utility provider and may warrant upgrades to power distribution infrastructure.

The proposed project would capture CO₂ from existing Tulare and Diatomite reservoir produced gas streams (Pre-Combustion) and emissions from flue gas emissions from existing stationary sources (Post-Combustion) within the South Belridge oilfield, described in more detail below, and transport the CO₂ through pipelines to the North Belridge oilfield for injection at dedicated UIC Class VI injections wells.

Pre-Combustion

Produced natural gas from existing operations will be directed to a dedicated CO₂ capture facility to be located near Gas Plant 32 (GP 32) in Section 32, Township 28 South, Range 21 East of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The CO₂ capture facility would include three steel towers up to 120 feet in height and between 2 to 12 feet in diameter. Other equipment within the facility will include heat exchangers, transfer pumps, compressors, and a storage area for process chemicals.

A physical solvent or a traditional amine absorption process would be used to remove the CO₂ from the produced gas stream. In the CO₂ capture facility, the produced gas stream would be passed through an absorber column where the absorbent would chemically react with and bind over 90 percent of the incoming CO₂. The rich absorbent carrying the CO₂ would be piped to a regenerator column and through the combination of reduced pressure and applied heat the CO₂ would be released from the absorbent and captured in nearly pure concentration. Following the CO₂ release, the reconstituted absorbent would be recycled back to the absorber column. The captured CO₂ would then be cooled, compressed, and pumped by pipeline to the permitted Class VI injection wells to be stored in the underground CCS sequestration field located within the North Belridge oilfield.



Post-Combustion

Three post-combustion CO₂ capture facilities would be constructed to remove CO₂ from the exhaust streams at three existing facilities. The post-combustion CO₂ capture facilities would be located at the Section 32 Cogeneration facility, Steam Generation Site 2868, and Steam Generation Site 2972 within the South Belridge oil field. The CO₂ capture and processing facilities would include the separation, dehydration, compression, and cooling of CO₂ from flue gas emissions at the existing stationary sources. The post-combustion CO₂ capture facilities would use a similar chemical process as described above for the pre-combustion facility. The remaining flue gas would continue to be vented to the atmosphere as allowed under the facilities current permits issued by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Proposal

Implementation of the proposed project includes the following requests:

- (a) Zone Classification Changes (ZCC), as follows:
 - A-1 (Limited Agriculture) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 1,737.38 acres comprised of five (5) parcels;
 - NR (20) (Natural Resources – 20 gross acres) to A (Exclusive Agriculture) on approximately 47 acres comprised of a portion of one (1) parcel.
- (b) Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the construction and operation of a Carbon capture and sequestration field, within the A (Exclusive Agriculture) Zone District. Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) has been determined to be a storage operation under the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, Section 19.08.085 and Section 19.06.020. Therefore, CCS in either existing formations or tanks is an allowed use with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in the following districts:
 - A District (Exclusive Agriculture)
 - M-2 District (Medium Industrial)
 - M-3 (Heavy Industrial)

1.4. Project Objectives

The project proponent has defined the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Construct and operate facilities and infrastructure to capture, transport, inject, and permanently sequester up to 43 MM Mt of CO₂ in a safe, secure, and economically feasible manner for storage, not enhanced recovery;
- Minimize new disturbance by siting and designing project facilities and infrastructure within the existing developed oil field footprint;
- Reduce the carbon intensity of Aera's produced oil and gas by capturing CO₂ from produced gas and stationary sources;
- Generate environmental, social, and economic benefits for Kern County and the State of California by implementing low carbon technologies, developing CCS infrastructure, and providing living-wage jobs in the region; and



- Contribute to California's goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 (Executive Order B-55-18) by integrating carbon capture in existing operations as well as ending oil and gas production from select reservoirs and repurposing them for the permanent storage of CO₂.

1.5. Proposed Discretionary Actions/Required Approvals

The Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department as the CEQA Lead Agency (per CEQA Guidelines Section 15052) has discretionary responsibility for the CarbonFrontier Project owned by AERA ENERGY, LLC. To implement this project, the project proponent may need to obtain discretionary and ministerial permits/approvals including, but not limited to, the following:

- Federal
 - Environmental Protection Agency Underground Injection Control – Class VI Permit
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 10 Incidental Take Permit and Habitat Conservation Plan (if required).
 - United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit (if required)
 - Pipeline Approval – U.S. Department of Transportation – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (if required)
- State
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit (State-listed endangered species) (if required)
 - Section 1602 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (if required)
 - Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
 - Waste Discharge Requirements
 - Regional Water Quality Certification (401 Permit) (if required)
 - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit
 - General Construction Stormwater Permit (Preparation of a SWPPP) (if required)
 - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
 - Right-of-Way Encroachment Permit (if required)
 - Permit for Transport of Oversized Loads (if required)
 - California Department of Conservation - Geological Energy Management Division (CalGEM)
 - Well Abandonment Permit (if required)



- Local
 - Kern County
 - Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report
 - Adoption of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - Adoption of 15091 Findings of Fact and 15093 Statement of Overriding Considerations
 - Approval of Zone Classification Change
 - Approval of Conditional Use Permits
 - Approval of Kern County Grading (if required)
 - Approval of Kern County Building Permits
 - Approval of Fire Safety Plan
 - San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
 - Approval of Fugitive Dust Control Plan
 - Authority to Construct (ATC)
 - Permit to Operate (PTO)

The preceding discretionary actions/approvals are potentially required and do not necessarily represent a comprehensive list of all possible discretionary permits/approvals required. Other additional permits or approvals from responsible agencies may be required for the proposed project.

In addition, although not required to implement the proposed project, the project proponent may seek a determination from the California Air Resources Board for Permanence Certification under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard's CCS Protocol.



Figure 1 – Regional Vicinity

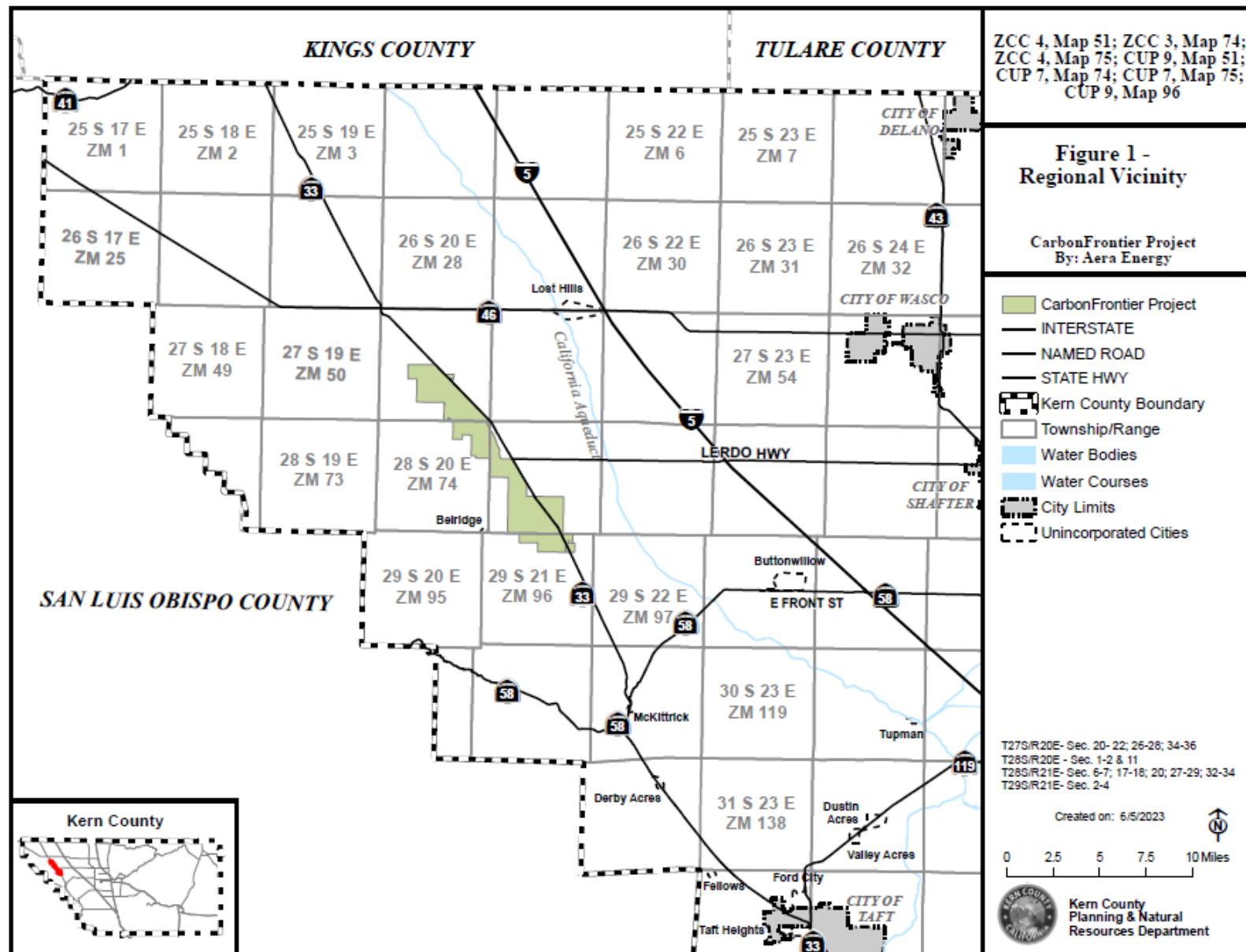




Figure 2 – Local Vicinity

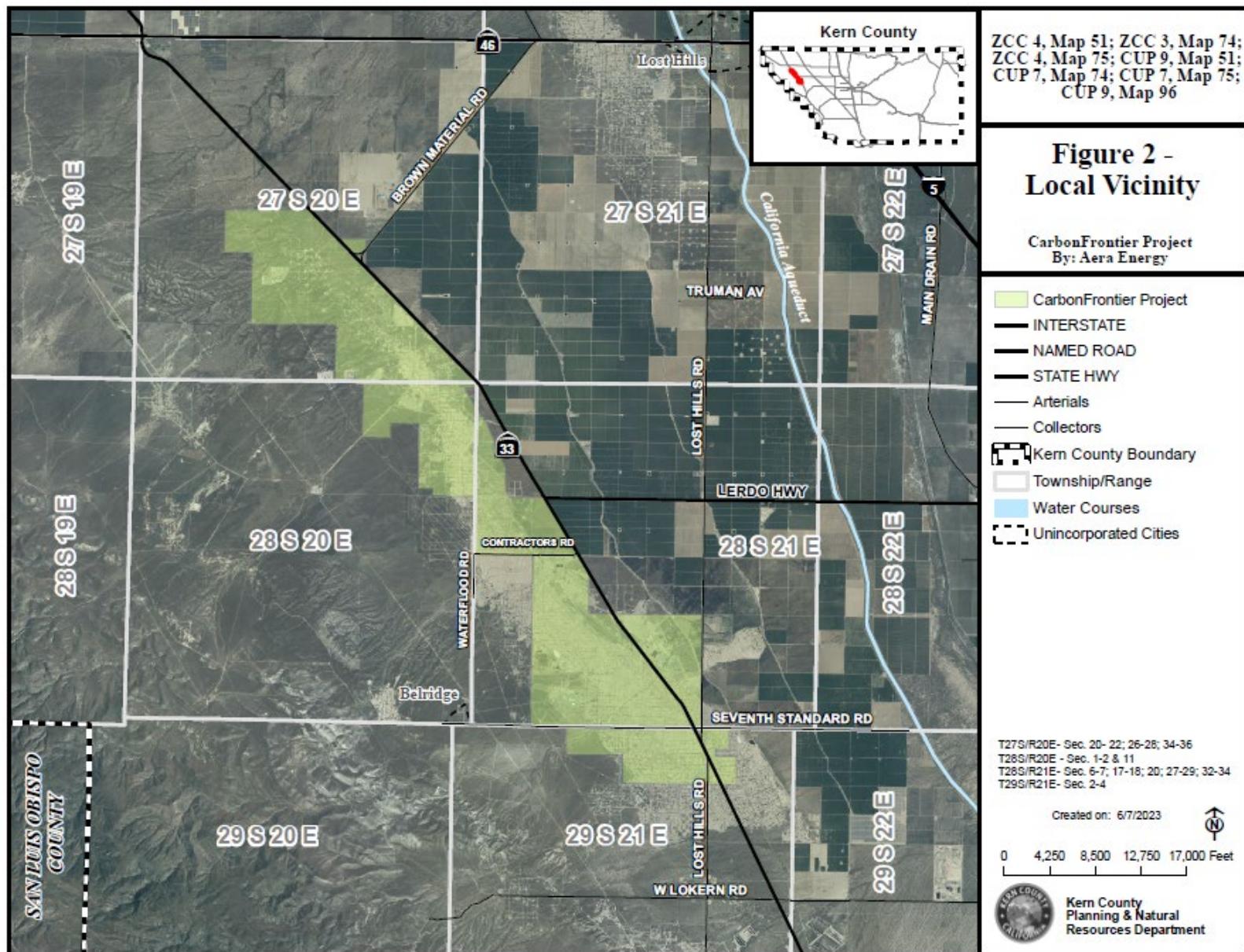




Figure 3 – Active Land Use Contract

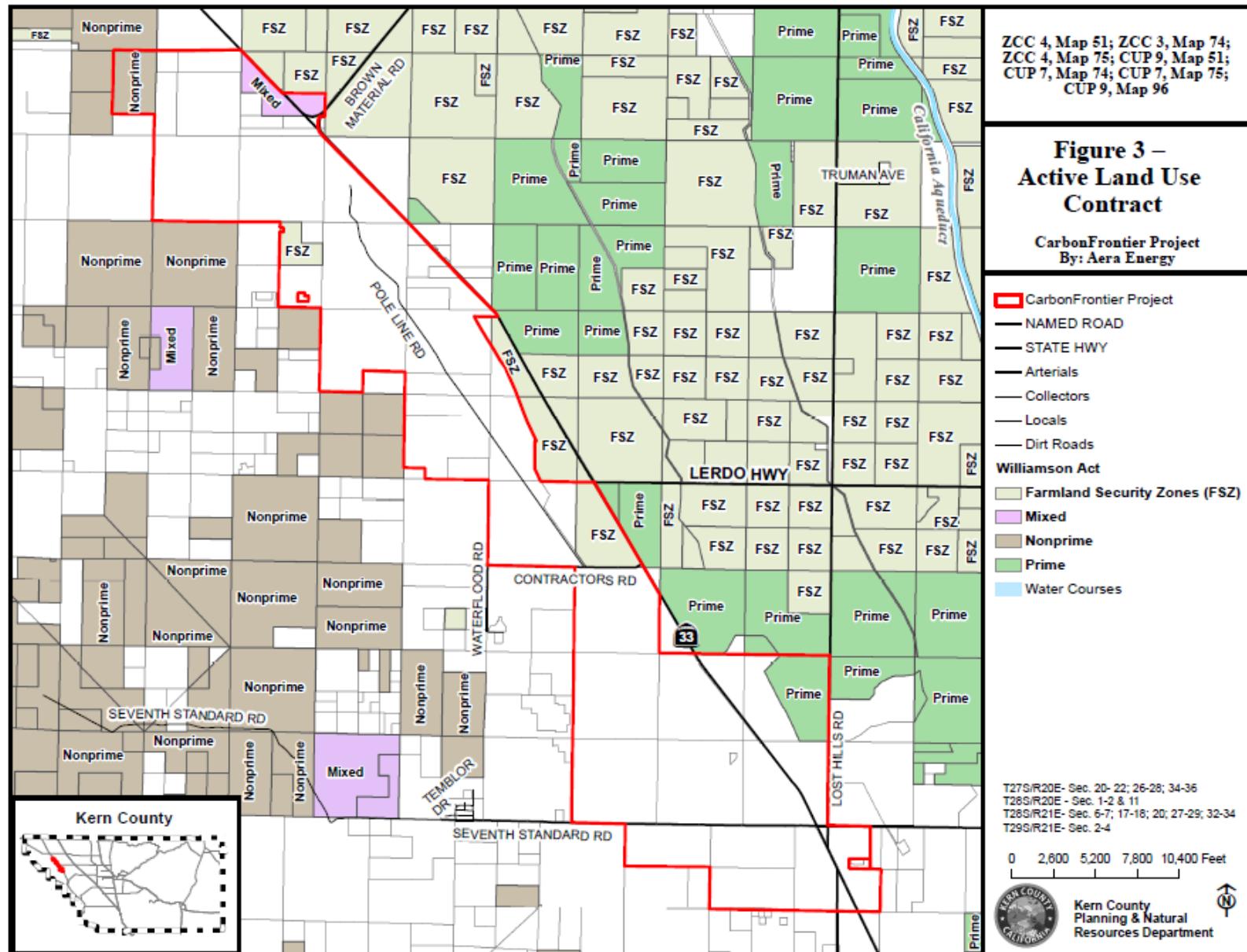




Figure 4 – Agricultural Preserve

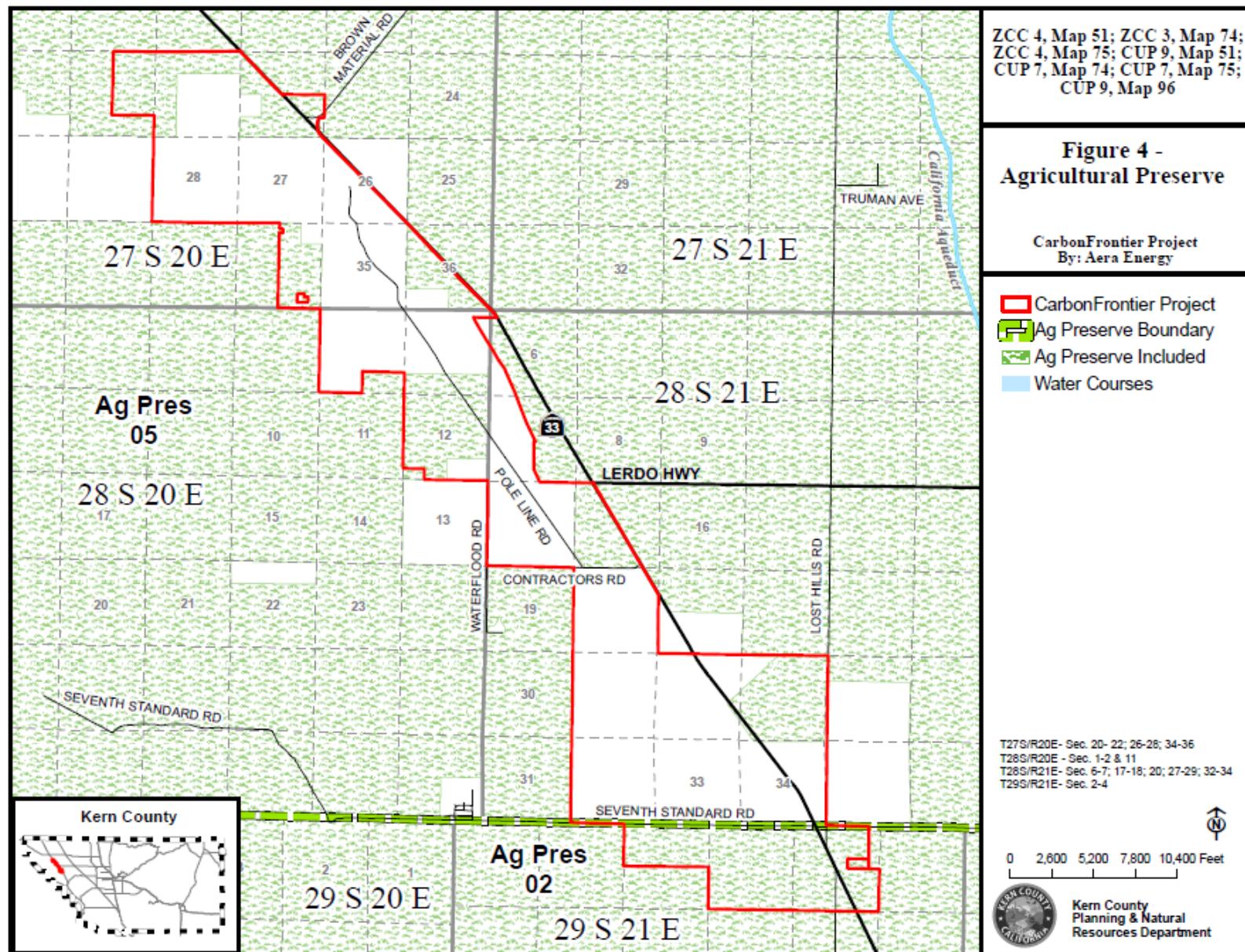




Figure 5 – Flood Hazard

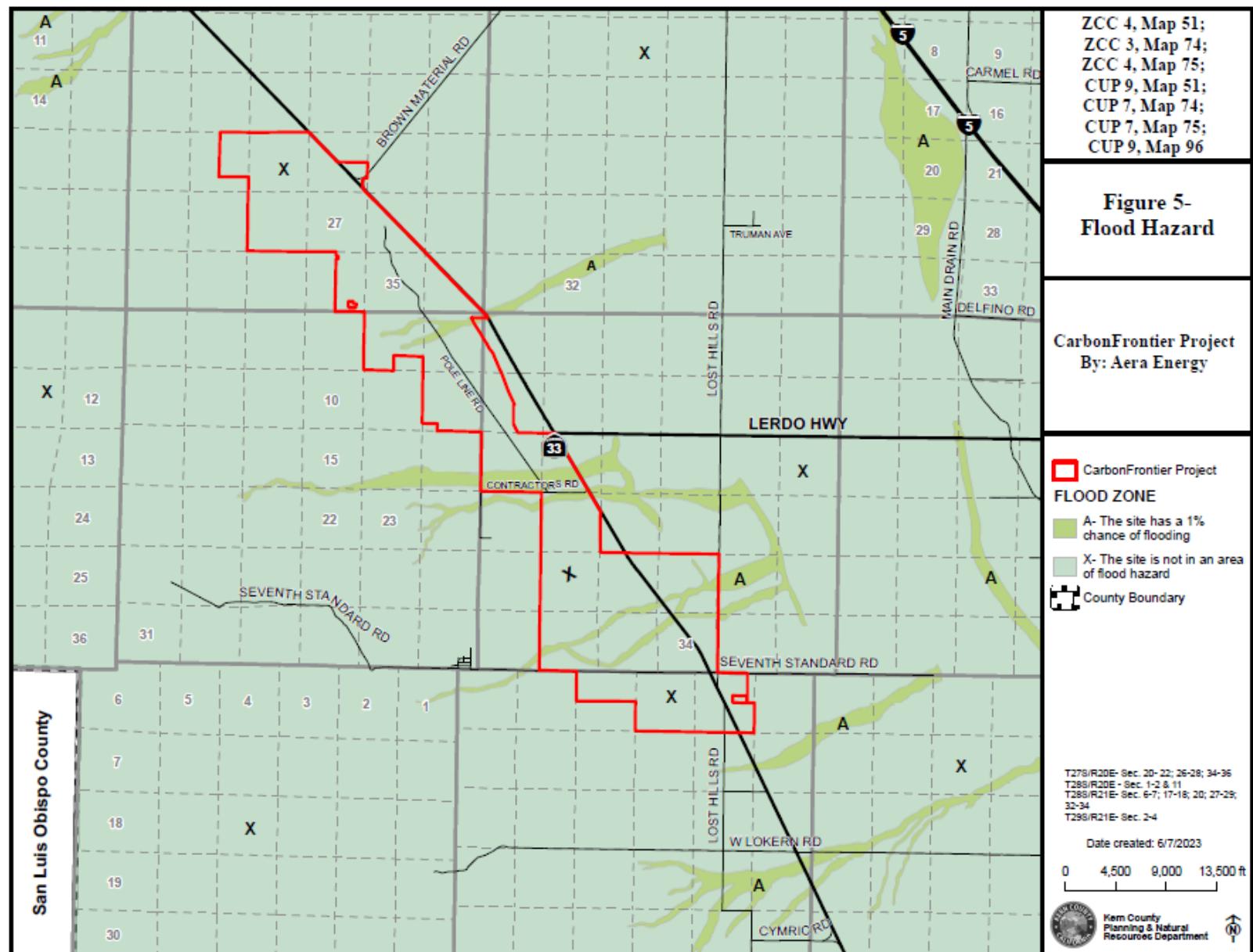




Figure 6 – Existing General Plan Designations

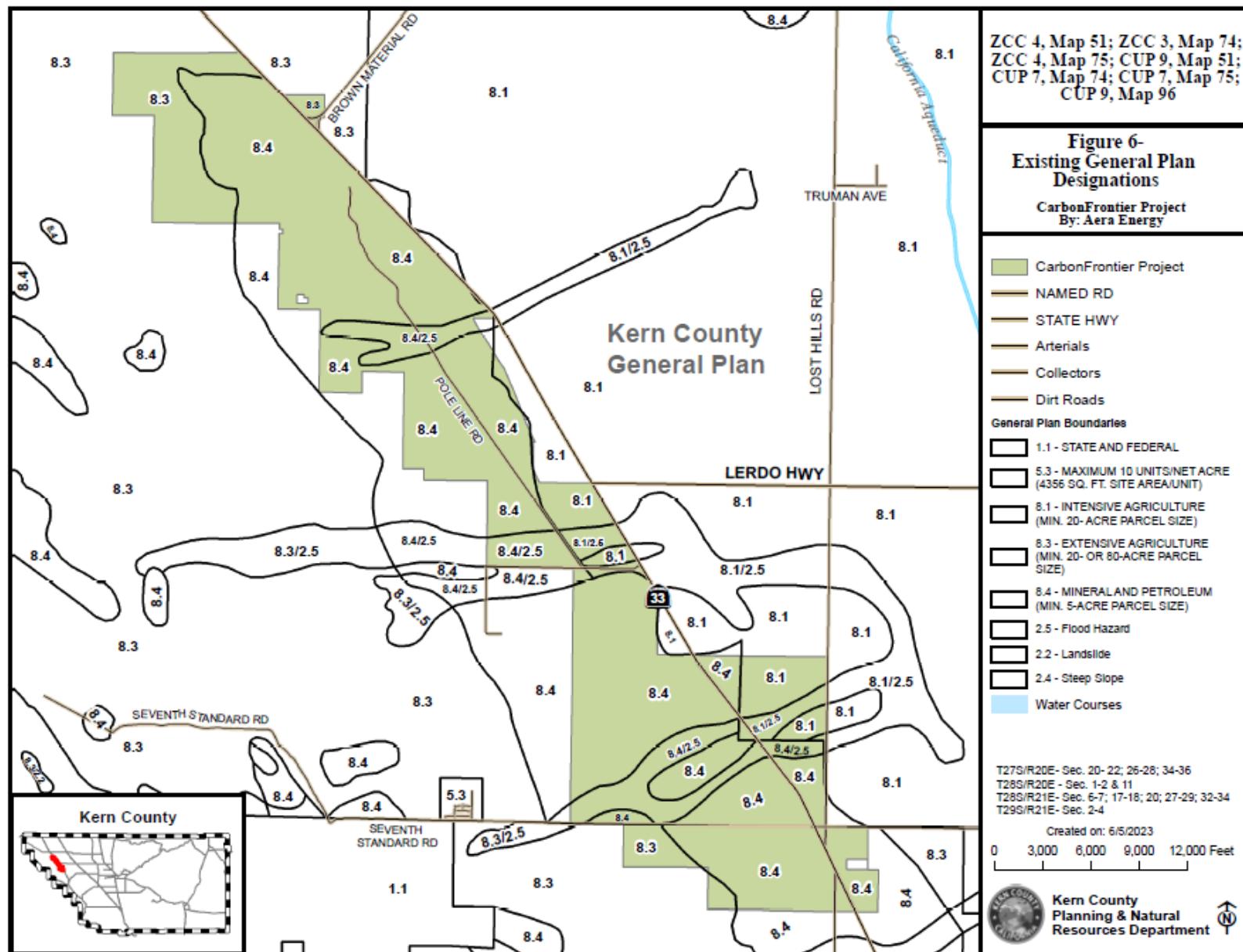




Figure 7 – Existing Zone Classification

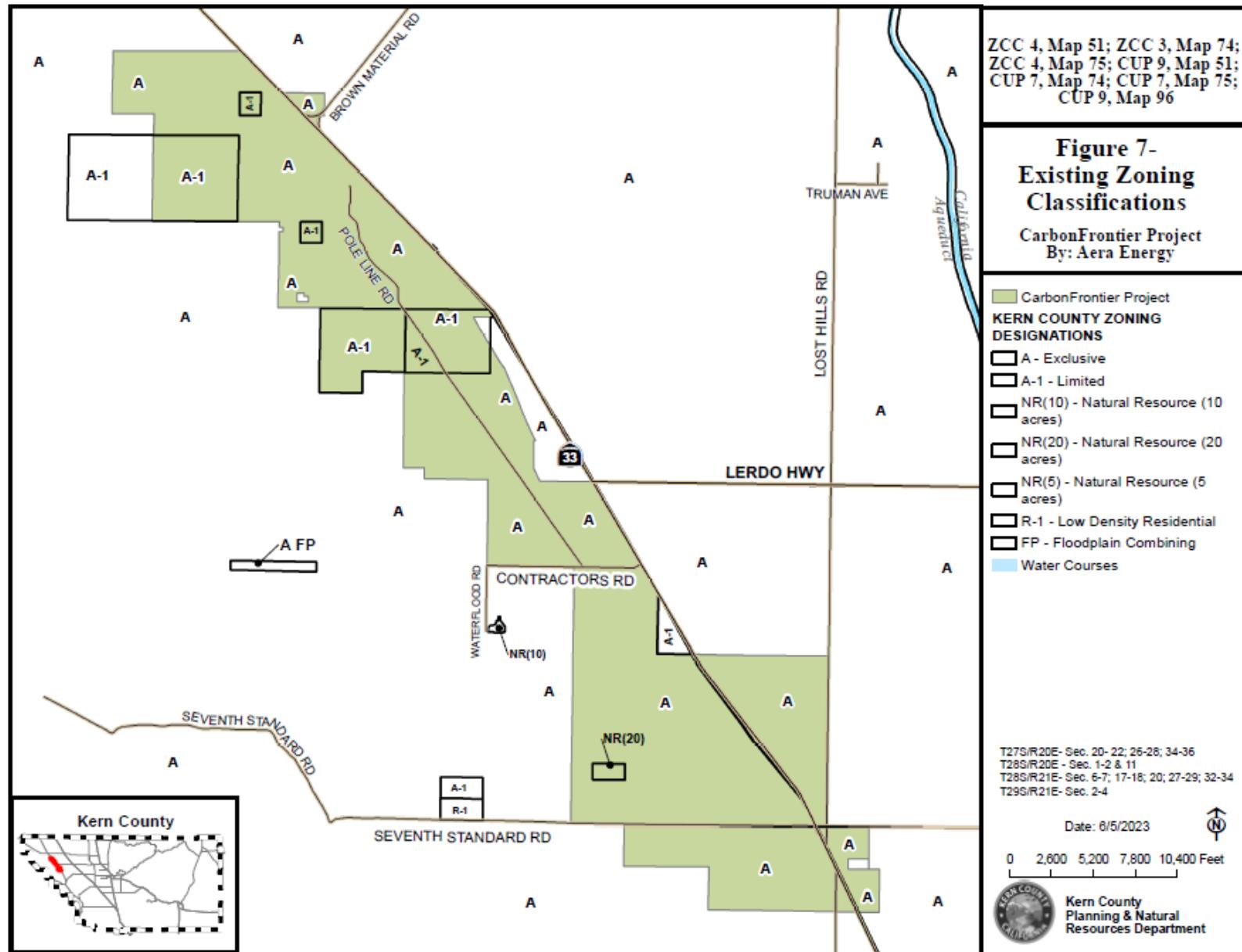




Figure 8 – Proposed Zoning Classifications

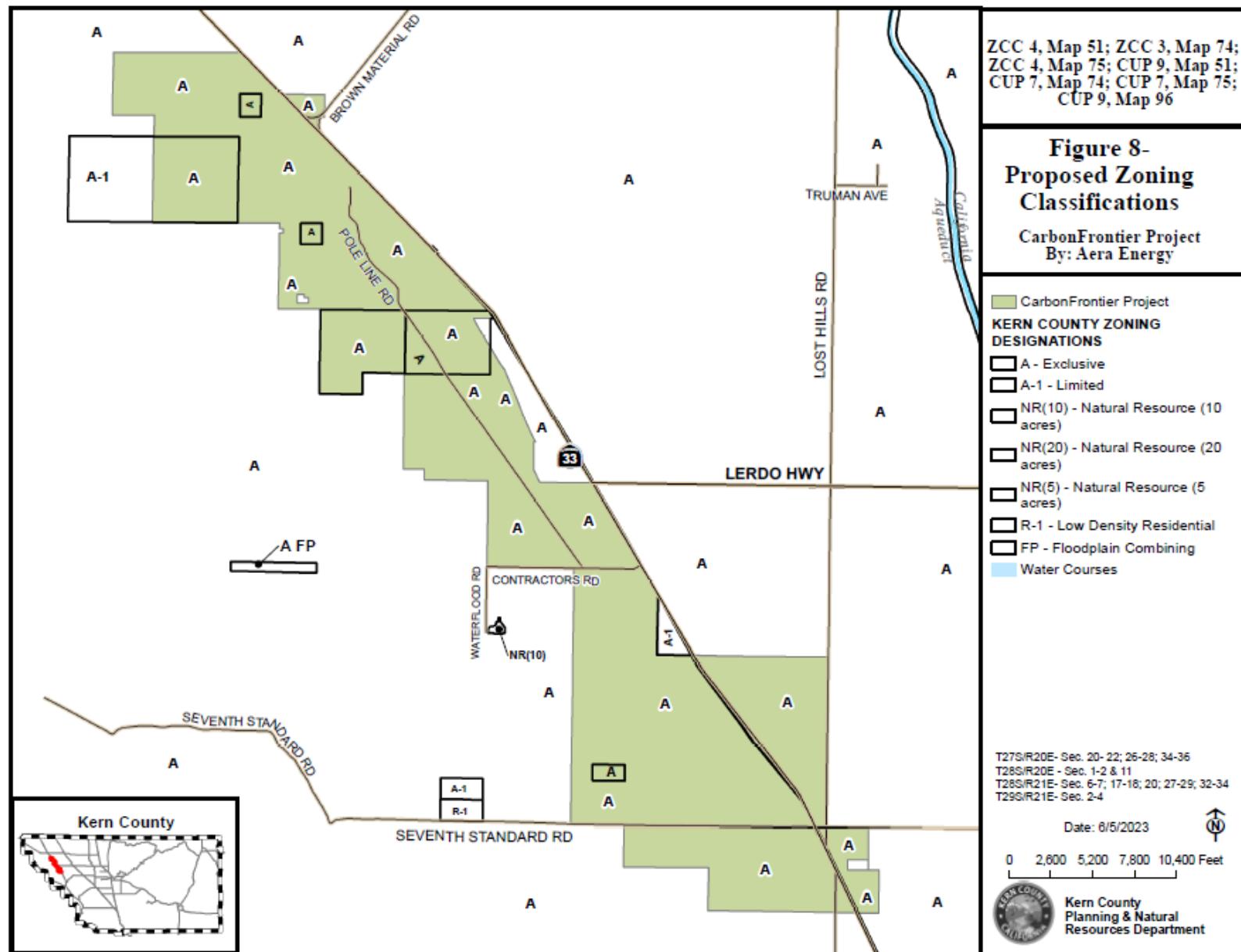
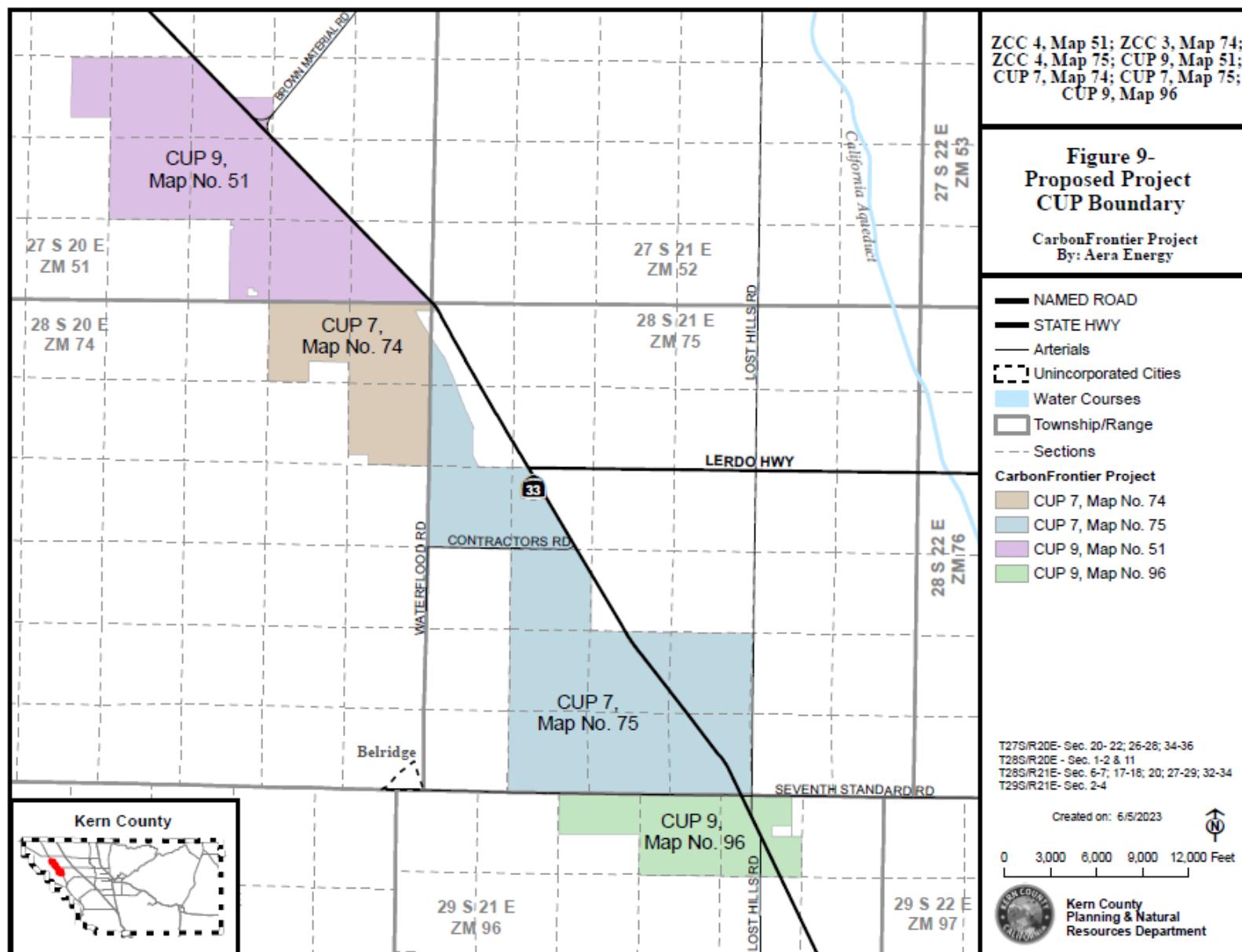




Figure 9 – Proposed Project CUP Boundary





2. Kern County Environmental Checklist Form

2.1. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, the County intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate potential environmental effects of the project and to propose mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects identified.

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “potentially significant impact” as indicated by the Kern County Environmental Checklist. As such, the analysis contained within the EIR will focus on these issue areas.

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

2.2. Determination

(To be completed by the Lead Agency)

Based on 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 (a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENT 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.

Signature:



Printed Name:

Cindi Hoover

Date:

6/9/2023

Title:

Division Chief