

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Hollister Field Office

**Environmental Impact Statement for
Oil and Gas Leasing and Development
on Public Lands and
Federal Mineral
Estate**

Public Scoping Meetings

January – February 2014



BLM Overview

- The BLM is the federal agency that has the delegated authority to manage public lands and all onshore federal mineral estate on behalf of the American people.
- The BLM's multiple-use mission is:
“...to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”
- The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

Overview of Presentation

- Current Resource Conditions
- Resource Management Plans (RMP)
- Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)
- Oil and Gas Decisions in RMPs
- BLM Phases of Authorization
- Other parallel activities
- Schedule
- What kind of Comments Are Helpful?
- How to Comment

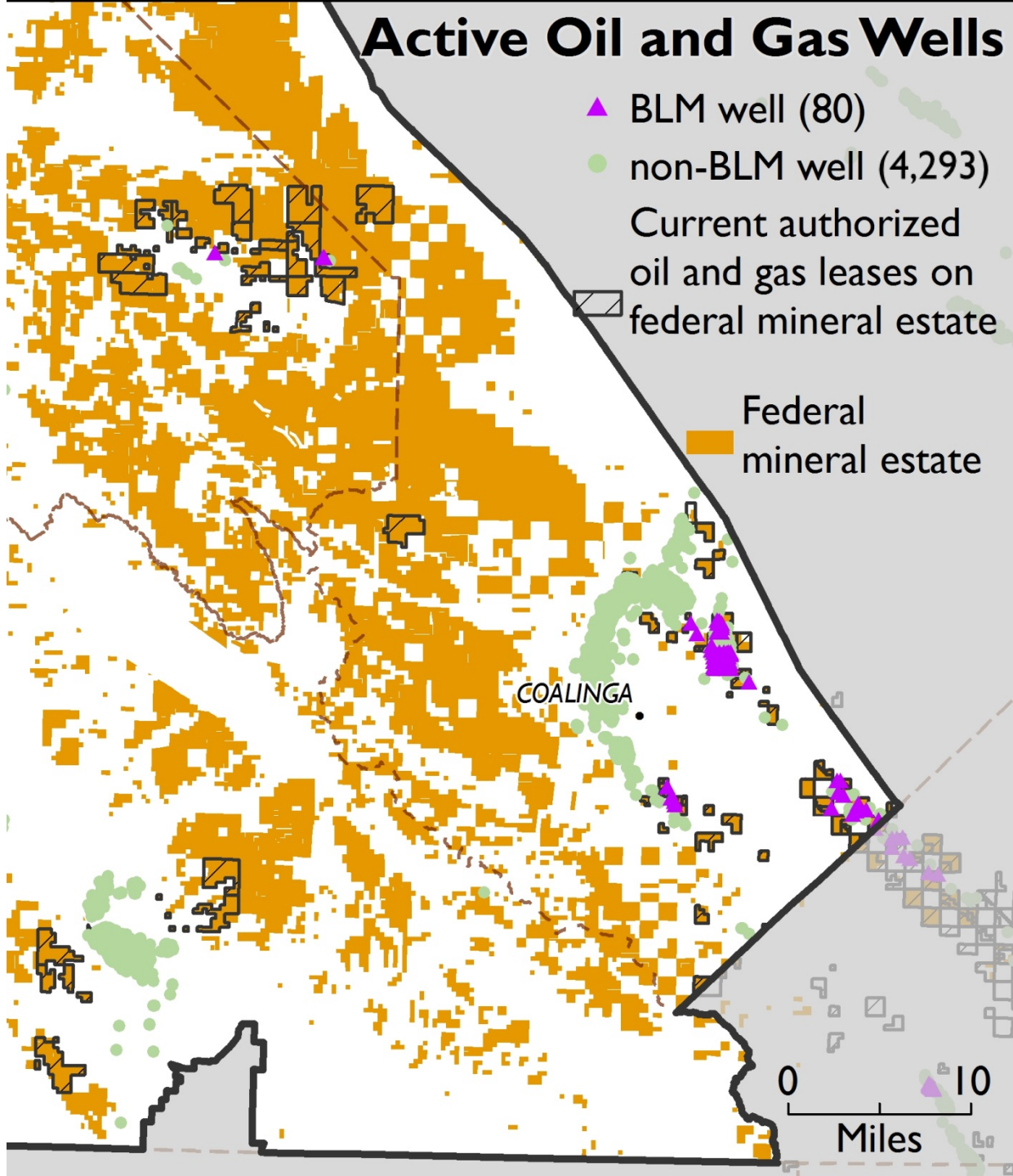
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■ Federal mineral estate



Current Resource Conditions



What is a Resource Management Plan? (RMP)

- Primary tool guiding BLM management activities in support of the dual mandate of multiple use and sustained yield.
- Created and revised through an EIS
 - Open, public process
 - Scoping is first step
- Hollister RMP
 - Last revised in 2007
 - Need for focused amendment on oil and gas identified

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for RMP

- Will identify potential impacts that may result from implementing a proposed RMP
- Analyzes a variety of RMP alternatives
- Will be prepared in compliance with NEPA, FLPMA and other applicable laws and policies
- Scoping is first phase of an EIS



Oil & Gas Decisions in RMPs

- Which lands are open or closed to leasing
- For open lands, which stipulations apply to protect certain kinds of resources
- RMPs do not authorize any actual drilling for exploration or development of oil and gas resources.
- Further environmental review and public involvement for site-specific leasing, exploration, and development

Phases of BLM Authorization

Planning/RMP

Occurs via RMP revision or amendment

Define which areas are open or closed to leasing

Develop list of stipulations that can be applied to future leases to protect resources



We are here

Leasing

Occurs via lease sale

Confirm nominated area is defined as “open to leasing” in RMP

Evaluate presence of environmental resources on nominated area

Apply stipulations to lease to protect identified resources

Auction off lease at public auction, with stipulations known to bidders

Development

Receive *Application for Permit to Drill (APD)* from oil or gas company

Confirm proposed activities conform to lease stipulations

Apply Conditions of Approval to specific plan of operations

Issue or Deny Permit to Drill

Other Parallel Activities

- BLM CA-sponsored Independent Science Assessment
 - New evaluation of well stimulation technologies
 - Specific to California
 - Led by California Council on Science & Technology (CCST)
 - Results will be used in the EIS analysis
 - Review of existing literature
 - Literature submissions accepted thru 2/16/2014
- Separate from this scoping process

Other Parallel Activities

- State of California - SB 4
 - Introduces new requirements for well stimulation in California
 - Unrelated to EIS
- BLM Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
 - Proposed rule was published in May 2013
 - 1.35 million comments received
 - BLM is reviewing comments and revising rule
 - Final rule expected by January 2015



Schedule

- Comments accepted through February 28, 2014
- Scoping report available mid-April 2014
- EIS development
 - Schedule will depend on funding, results of scoping and the ISA

We want to hear from you!

Please send comments by Feb 28, 2014 to:

Mail:

BLM, California State Office
Attn: HFO O&G Leasing EIS
2800 Cottage Way, Rm. W-1623,
Sacramento, CA 95825

E-mail: BLM_CA_OGEIS@blm.gov

Keep up to date:

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