

# How will Three Proposed Cat Canyon Oil Projects Impact Our Community?

## LEARN THE FACTS

### OVERVIEW

More than a century of conventional oil drilling has depleted much of the easy to access oil across California's south-central coast. Now, Santa Barbara County is facing a massive increase in onshore oil and gas production using much dirtier and more dangerous extraction methods, known as cyclic steam injection and steam flooding.

### THREE NEW OIL PROJECTS WILL TRIPLE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S CURRENT OIL PRODUCTION

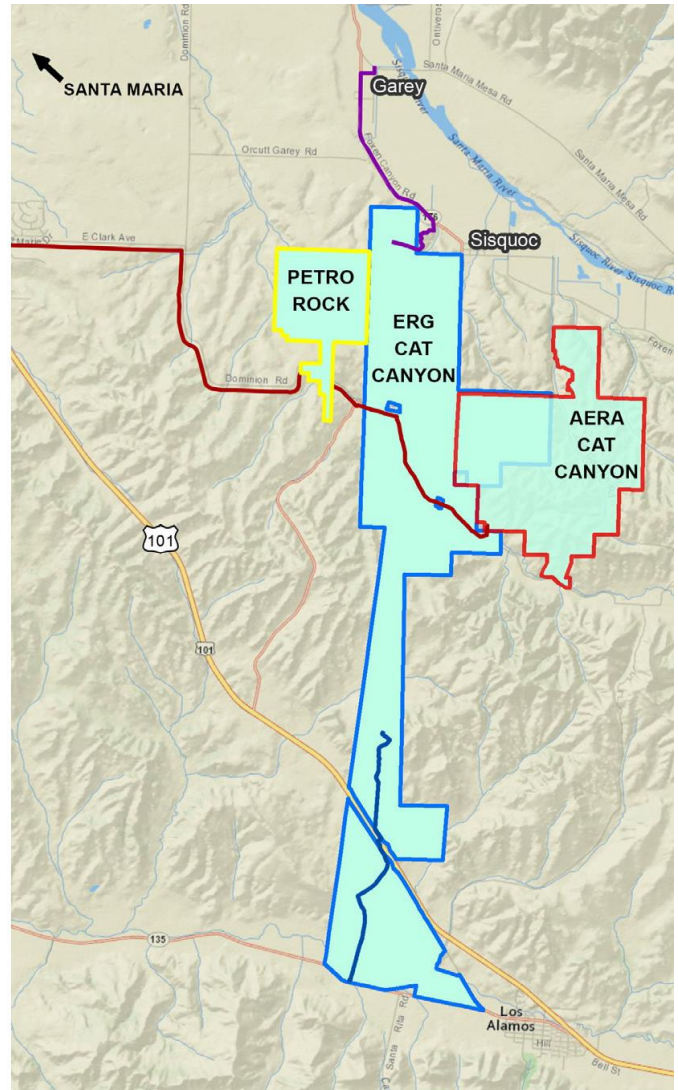
- All three oil projects are proposed by Kern County oil companies where one in three residents live within a mile of an oil and gas well.
- If approved, these three projects proposed by ERG Operating Company, Aera Energy LLC, and PetroRock LLC would bring 760 new wells to Cat Canyon, located a mere 10 miles southeast of Santa Maria.

### HUNDREDS OF TANKER TRUCKS WILL USE LOCAL ROADS EACH DAY

- Hundreds of heavy-duty trucks and oil tankers will transport hazardous and explosive loads daily on local roads. ERG's project alone will require 156 additional daily oil tanker trips on local roads.
- In addition to using oil tanker trucks to ship produced oil, tanker trucks will also bring light crude oil from other oil fields to mix with Cat Canyon's heavy crude.
- Oil tanker trucks pose a serious safety risk to the public, increasing the risk of accidents to other drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and degrading local roads.

### SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF LOCAL FRESHWATER REQUIRED FOR DRILLING AND OPERATIONS

- All three projects will require millions of gallons of freshwater each year for drilling and operations. For example, PetroRock's project alone will use over 7,000,000 gallons of freshwater annually.



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### UNCONVENTIONAL OIL RECOVERY TECHNIQUES AND ACIDIZING INCREASE RISKS TO AIR AND WATER QUALITY

- All three projects depend upon the use of thermal enhancement techniques to extract Cat Canyon's heavy, viscous crude oil. These energy-intensive steaming methods are the least efficient and most carbon-intensive.
- These operators also utilize acidizing, a highly toxic process that involves the injection of several toxic chemicals, also used for fracking, into the well to increase production and/or well maintenance.

### INJECTION OF TOXIC WASTE THREATENS LOCAL UNDERGROUND AQUIFERS

- All three projects propose to inject millions of gallons of polluted wastewater into underground aquifers.
- Injecting toxic wastewater from oil and gas operations underground is more economical for the operators, but creates the potential for fluid migration and contamination of underground sources of drinking water.
- According to California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the community that surrounds Cat Canyon's oil field already faces the highest threat to its groundwater resources when compared to all other California census tracts and ranks in the 100 percentile.



Photo by Mark Oliver

### SIGNIFICANT PROJECT EMISSIONS WILL DEGRADE LOCAL AIR QUALITY

- The continuous injection of steam into the reservoir for retrieving the heavy crude requires the constant use of steam generators, which emit high levels of greenhouse gasses and other air pollutants hazardous to health.
- The addition of hundreds of tankers on local roadways will also severely degrade air quality in the region.

### STAY TUNED

To defeat these projects, we will need your help. Please join us in urging Santa Barbara County to deny these three oil projects. Together we can protect our climate, air quality, water resources, and public health. For more information, please visit [www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org).