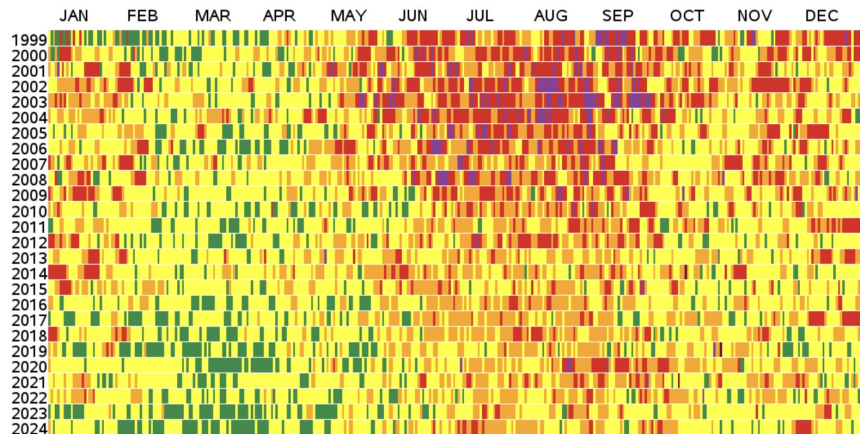




CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Kern County has the worst air in the country

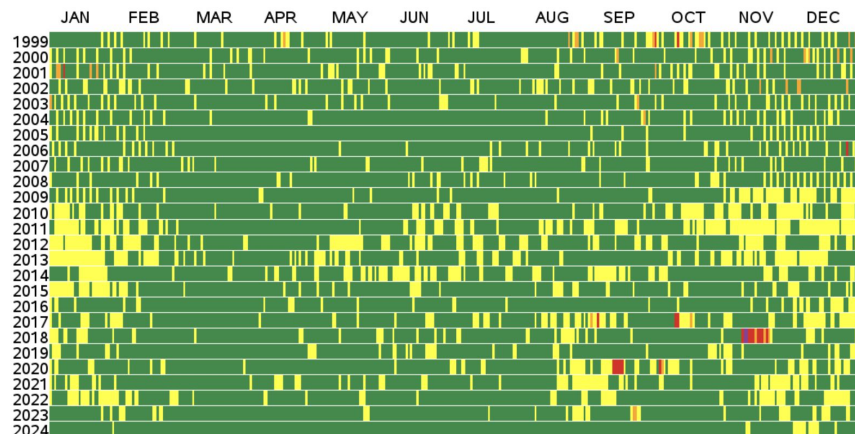
Daily AQI Values, 1999 to 2024
Bakersfield, CA



AQI Category

- Good (≤ 50 AQI)
- Moderate (51-100 AQI)
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150 AQI)
- Unhealthy (151-200 AQI)
- Very Unhealthy (201-300 AQI)
- Hazardous (≥ 301 AQI)

Daily AQI Values, 1999 to 2024
Santa Rosa, CA



AQI Category

- Good (≤ 50 AQI)
- Moderate (51-100 AQI)
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150 AQI)
- Unhealthy (151-200 AQI)
- Very Unhealthy (201-300 AQI)
- Hazardous (≥ 301 AQI)

70% of California's oil is produced in Kern County

THE CALIFORNIA REPORT

State Launches Probe Into Oil Field Spills – Including One That's Been Flowing Since 2003

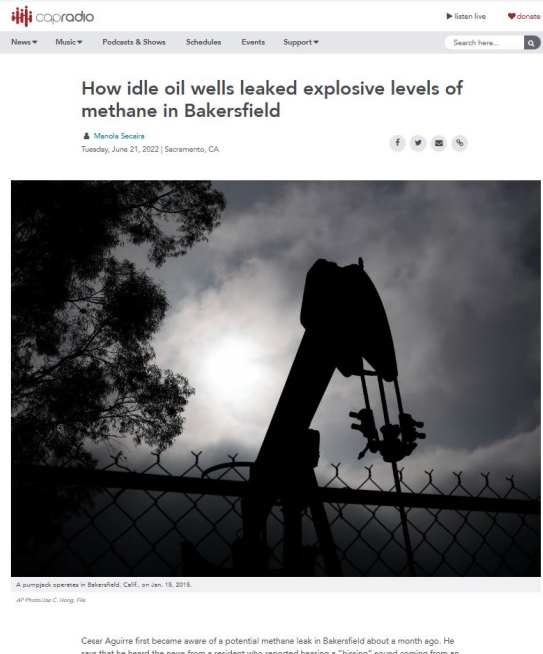
By Ted Goldberg, Dan Brekke Aug 26, 2019 Save Article



A section of the creek bed inundated by an oil spill near a Chevron well in Kern County awaits cleanup in this Aug. 21 image. (California Department of Conservation)

Updated 3:40 p.m. Monday

State oil and gas regulators say they're launching an investigation of operations in a Kern County oil field after a series of large, uncontrolled crude petroleum releases near



A pumpjack operates in Bakersfield, Calif., on Jan. 18, 2015.

AP Photo/Chris Hong, File

Cesar Aguirre first became aware of a potential methane leak in Bakersfield about a month ago. He says that he heard the noise from a resident who reported hearing a "thunder" sound coming from an

LOCAL NEWS

State regulators conduct site check of Griffin Resources, after June water contamination in Bakersfield

by: Jenny Huh
Posted: Aug 26, 2024 / 05:46 PM PDT
Updated: Aug 26, 2024 / 05:50 PM PDT

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BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (KGET) — In the aftermath of a [June oil spill](#) that contaminated drinking water for dozens of businesses in Bakersfield, state regulators paid a visit to Bakersfield.

They examined various sites operated by local oil producer [Griffin Resources LLC](#) — the company responsible for that water contamination incident which is now being sued by the City of Bakersfield.

"Many orders to take care of the wells that were leaking and no response. That's the most surprising thing particularly given where we're at. We're surrounded by businesses and housing," said David Shabazian, director of the California Department of Conservation.

[| Chevron fined millions by state agencies for oil spills in Kern County](#) >

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11769850/state-launches-probe-into-oil-field-spills-including-one-that-started-in-2003>

<https://www.capradio.org/articles/2022/06/21/how-idle-oil-wells-leaked-explosive-levels-of-methane-in-bakersfield/>

<https://www.kget.com/news/local-news/exclusive-state-regulators-conduct-site-check-of-griffin-resources-responsible-for-bakersfield-june-water-contamination/>

Oil extraction is harming our communities

As the distance between human-occupied residences and upstream oil and gas development operations decreases, or the density of wells and production volume increases, the likelihood of adverse health outcomes increases. Studies, including those in California, consistently show increased potential for exposure to air pollution and noise, as well as increased risk for several adverse health outcomes in populations living within and beyond 1 kilometer (km).

California Oil & Gas Public Health Rulemaking Scientific Advisory Panel

Principal Investigators

Seth B.C. Shonkoff, PhD, MPH — *PSE Healthy Energy, University of California, Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*
Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, MPH — *University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health and Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management*

Expert Panel Members

Joan Casey, PhD, MA — *Columbia School of Public Health*
Nicole Deziel, PhD, MHS — *Yale School of Public Health*
Dominic DiGiulio, PhD — *PSE Healthy Energy, University of Colorado**
Stephen Foster, PhD — *Geosyntec Consultants***
Jo Kay Ghosh, PhD — *South Coast Air Quality Management District****
Gretchen Goldman, PhD, MS — *Union of Concerned Scientists*****
Robert Harrison, MD, MPH — *University of California, San Francisco*
Jill Johnston, PhD — *University of Southern California*
Kenneth Kloc, PhD, MPH — *CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment*
Lisa McKenzie, PhD, MPH — *Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*
Thomas McKone, PhD — *University of California, Berkeley*
Mark Miller, MD, MPH — *CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, University of California, San Francisco*
Andrea Polidori, PhD — *South Coast Air Quality Management District*
*Served as an Expert Panel Member until February 3, 2023
**Served as an Expert Panel Member until May 18, 2023
***Served as an Expert Panel member until August 6, 2021
****Served as an Expert Panel Member until July 5, 2021



When an Oil Well Is Your Neighbor - Liza Gross 2022

...he told her all the health problems the compounds have been linked to in studies: nosebleeds, headaches, fatigue, dizziness, loss of memory.

“Does any of that sound familiar?”

“Most of those symptoms you just named?” Martinez said, sighing. “Every day.”

Regulatory Loophoops allow oil facilities in Kern to leak without repair

30% of oil and gas infrastructure within 3,200 feet of schools and residents are leaking

30% of the leaking facilities are NOT required to have leak detection because of the heavy oil exemption

The Kern County Local Ordinance that the Governor proposes to codify envisions up to 2,600 new wells to be drilled annually in Kern County alone without tightening regulations that would lower public health consequences of the increased drilling.

Source:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGuw7Ai0wU/sRawFWWEJ3OR9LJqJ-vczQ/view?utm_content=DAGuw7Ai0wU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlid=hb99c5a2137

MOST OIL EXTRACTION IN CALIFORNIA IS EXEMPT FROM EMISSIONS MONITORING AND REPAIR REQUIREMENTS



The California Oil and Gas Rule (COGR) requires leak monitoring and repair on oil and gas infrastructure, but exempts "heavy oil."

68%

of crude oil production in California is "heavy"¹

80%

of California's unplugged oil and gas wells produce heavy oil²



TWO CASE STUDIES OF FENCELINE LEAKS ALLOWED TO PERSIST

CCEJN received a report of hissing coming from an oil tank behind a neighborhood (image at left). The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) followed up and found leaks on multiple tanks. However, they concluded the site produced "heavy oil" and dismissed the case.

CCEJN inspectors found two leaking oil wells in a public park next to a popular walking and biking trail (image at right). When the SJVAPCD followed up, they determined the wells produced heavy oil, therefore found no violation and closed the case. Four months later, CCEJN's re-inspection still found significant leaks.

In one year of monitoring, over 30% of O&G facilities CCEJN inspected were leaking

Bakersfield is the most polluted city in the nation³

Leaking oil and gas infrastructure worsens local air quality and can expose residents to toxic emissions and odors

¹ https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/2020-02_Petroleum_Watch_ADA_0.pdf

² <https://docs.google.com/document/d/2E0Mg1L81XB3rKTGmTEkx1bM9tvaDqunfZT7wRd17t0z4tD>

³ <https://www.ung.org/research/data/city-rankings/most-polluted-cities>



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK**

Production went down every year the last time Kern approved thousands of wells per year

2015 - 2020 Numbers

Year / Oil Production (annual) / New Drill Permits

2020 - 141,985,000 - 1,994

2019 - 156,220,000 - 2,674

2018 - 160,600,000 - 1,788

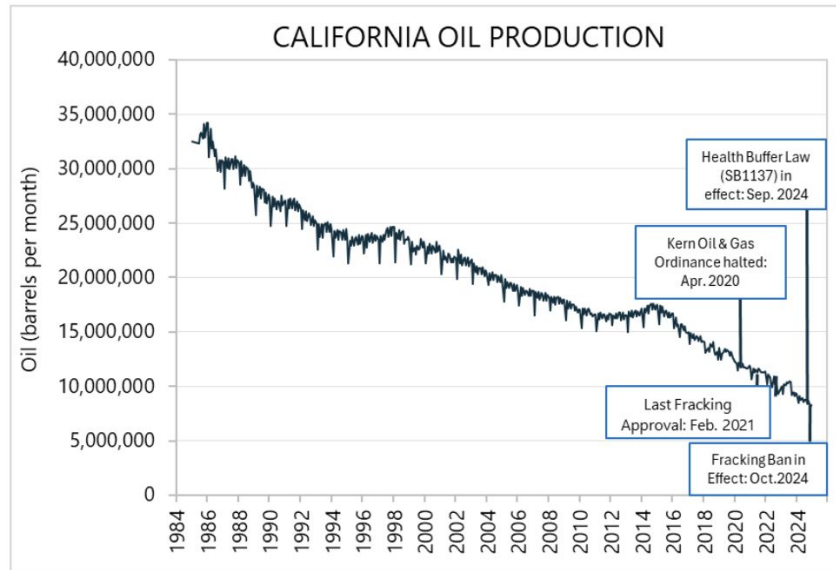
2017 - 173,375,000 - 1,114

2016 - 185,420,000 - 381

2015 - 201,115,000 - 4,497

Production is on a 40 year decline


Figure 1: California's oil production has been in terminal decline for four decades, well before recent litigation or regulations. Data from the [Energy Information Administration](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/LeafHandler.ashx?n=PET&s=MCRFPCA2&f=M).



Heavy oil = Extreme extraction

California, and especially Kern have some of the **most carbon intense oil fields anywhere in the world.**

US California*	Aliso Canyon	4.94	52,127
	Ant Hill	20.81	4,437
	Antelope Hills	2.84	45,713
	Antelope Hills, North	24.75	77,630
	Arroyo Grande	31.11	520,155
	Chico-Martinez	48.13	7,116
	Cienaga Canyon	5.78	9,232
	Coalinga	25.81	4,831,911
	Kern Bluff	12.54	8,092
	Kern Front	35.68	2,423,176
	Kern River	15.09	14,221,135
	Lynch Canyon	23.10	85,805
	Mahala	4.99	5,343
	McDonald Anticline	4.33	33,184
	McKittrick	25.31	3,050,848
	Midway-Sunset	29.33	16,552,447



Country/State	Crude Name	CI (g/MJ)	2023 Volume (bbl)
	<i>Annual Crude Average CI</i>	<i>12.51</i>	
Angola	Cabinda	11.78	954,911
	Nemba	9.08	948,742
	Pazflor	8.02	2,748,931
Colombia	Chaza	11.78	3,982,191
	South Blend	9.25	1,985,914
	Vasconia	9.62	14,698,784
Ecuador	Napo	8.31	11,938,094
	Oriente	10.07	33,727,582
Ghana	Jubilee	11.78	2,831,868
	Ten Blend	8.08	1,936,401
Guyana	Liza	11.78	7,981,755
	Unity Gold	11.78	24,083,411
Iraq	Basra Medium	11.78	69,616,036
	Basra Heavy	10.69	1,333,216
Kazakhstan	CPC Blend	11.78	1,967,034
Qatar	Al Shaheen	11.78	995,199
	Qatar Land	11.78	516,593
Saudi Arabia	Arab Extra Light	9.41	10,503,155
	Arab Light	9.23	38,982,867
	HSFO Crude Blend	11.78	2,412,596
Saudi-Kuwait Neutral Zone	Eocene	7.85	825,925
	Ratawi	9.42	498,094
Trinidad	Molo	11.78	2,012,960
UAE	Das Crude	11.78	1,926,816
	Murban	10.01	4,017,687

Source:

https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/fuels/lcfs/crude-oil/2023_Crude_Average_CI_Calculation_final.pdf

The state can meet
the near-term
supply challenge
AND protect
communities, the
environment, and
our climate
progress.



August 1, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom	Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire	Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas
1021 O Street, Suite 9000	1021 O Street, Suite 8518	1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814	Sacramento, CA 95814	Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Response to Draft Legislative Language Dated July 15, 2025

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire and Speaker Rivas,

We appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback on the draft legislative package dated July 15, 2025 ("Draft Package"). When Valero announced its intention to shutter their Benicia refinery in 2026, it raised real near-term concerns about potential supply shortages and gas price spikes across the state. Environmental justice communities are most impacted by the increasing costs of living, and the undersigned groups recognize how critical the issue of affordability is for working families across the state. We affirm that the state can and must take bold action to ensure the state has a safe, affordable, and reliable supply of transportation fuels while further ensuring a managed decline of fossil fuel refining and extraction to accomplish a just transition that is worker- and community-led.

To protect extraction communities:

- Reject the CEQA exemption for oil and gas drilling statewide
- For Kern County:
 - Ensure enforceability of existing protections, including setbacks
 - New drilling should directly be tied to the state's refineries' needs
 - The codified ordinance must be sunsetted
 - Improve air quality from existing and future oil extraction activities

To protect refinery communities and the taxpayers

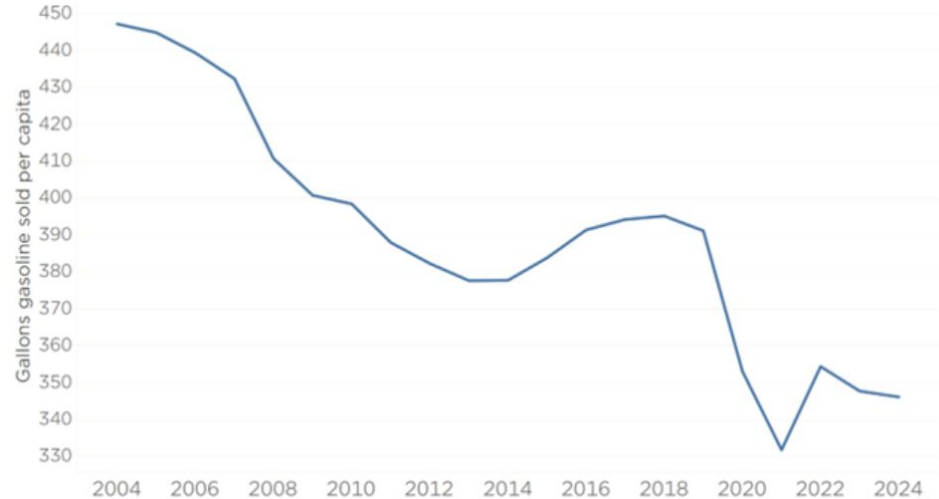
- Ensure the public and the regulators know the cost associated with closing refineries.

To protect coastal communities

- Adopt the full language in AB 1448 (Hart) and SB 542 (Limon) that have been vetted and fine-tuned by Legislative policy committees

Remember the big picture

- Refineries are hugely profitable, including in CA, but demand is decreasing



<https://blog.ucs.org/dave-reichmuth/has-gasoline-use-in-california-peaked/>

Satellite Imaging of Leaks from Oil and Gas Infrastructure

Despite industry talking points, California oil has some of the world's highest methane emissions

Source: Carbon Mapper <https://data.carbonmapper.org/#1.63/22.6/63.4>

Despite industry talking points, California oil has some of the world's highest methane emissions

Source: Carbon Mapper <https://data.carbonmapper.org/#1.63/22.6/63.4>

How to protect the taxpayer and from being in this situation again?

- Holistic managed transition plan
- Continued progress on reducing demand
- Remaining extraction needs to protect communities
- More industry transparency

