# **ATTORNEY GENERAL BECERRA, GOVERNOR NEWSOM AND STATE AGENCIES OPPOSE SALE OF OIL AND GAS LEASES IN KERN COUNTY**

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**Body**

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov. 9 -- The California Attorney General issued the following press release:

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), today filed a protest challenging the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed sale of seven ***oil*** and gas leases in ***Kern*** County. More than 95 percent of federal drilling in California already occurs in ***Kern*** County, often in close proximity to California's most vulnerable communities. Instead of conducting a detailed environmental analysis of the leases, BLM is relying on a flawed programmatic environmental review finalized in December 2019 that opened more than one million acres of public lands in Central California to ***oil*** and gas drilling. Attorney General Becerra, Governor Newsom, and state agencies are currently challenging the programmatic environmental review in court.

"Time and time again, the Trump Administration has worked outside the bounds of the law to advance the interests of industry polluters," said Attorney General Becerra. "BLM is recklessly jamming through the sale of ***oil*** and gas leases in ***Kern*** County using a flawed environmental analysis that is being challenged in court. Rest assured, we'll do whatever it takes to protect our public lands and uphold the rule of law."

The ***Kern*** County lease sale builds on BLM's continued efforts to open federal lands in California to additional ***oil*** and gas development. On January 17, 2020, Attorney General Becerra, Governor Newsom, CARB, the Department of Water Resources, and CDFW, filed a lawsuit challenging BLM's plan to open up more than one million acres of public lands in Central California to ***oil*** and gas drilling. The lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California alleges that BLM's programmatic environmental review of the project failed to fully evaluate the significant and adverse impacts on the communities and environment of eight Central California counties, and requests that the court set aside the decision.

\*The rest of the document can be viewed at:

https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-becerra-governor-newsom-and-state-agencies-oppose-sale-***oil***-and For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at contentservices@htlive.com

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