



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Status Update on Oil and Gas Operations Board of Directors

March 19, 2026

Aeron Arlin Genet

Executive Director / APCO

Kaitlin McNally

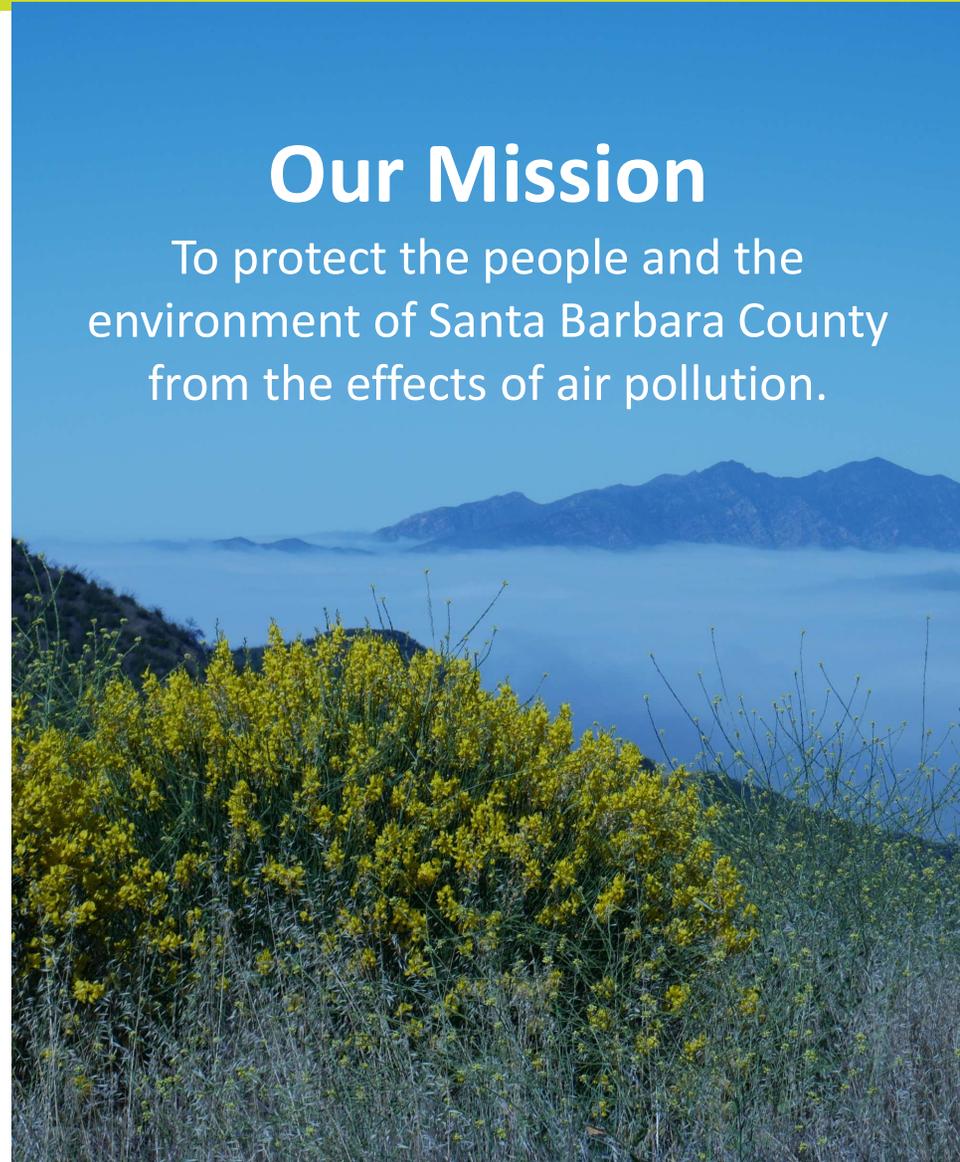
Compliance Division Manager

Marina Lupini

Air Quality Specialist in the Compliance Division

Our Mission

To protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution.



Overview

- Background
- Onshore Activities
- Offshore Platforms
- Permit Program
- Inspections
- Enforcement
- Compliance Statistics
- Interagency Coordination
- Methane Emissions



Background

- **Federal Clean Air Act and California Health and Safety Code**
- **Permitted Oil and Gas Sources:**
 - Active, idle, and orphan wells
 - Oil and gas plants
 - Asphalt refinery
 - Oil and gas pump stations
 - Natural gas storage facility
 - Natural gas odorant & metering stations



2025 Onshore Activities

- **Various Leases Plugged and Abandoned**
 - 174 of 210 Orphaned HVI Cat Canyon Wells - CalGEM
 - Casmalia Field NW – Santa Maria Energy, LLC.
 - Hidden Canyon – West Bay Exploration Company
 - Waite Bradley / Brookings Lease – BE Conway Energy, Inc.
 - Wheat Lease – Off Broadway Mineral
- **Santa Maria Asphalt Refinery Restarting**
 - CAP Resolution Partners, LLC. purchased in October 2025
- **Santa Ynez Unit Oil and Gas Plant Restarting**
 - Initial restart operations began April 2025



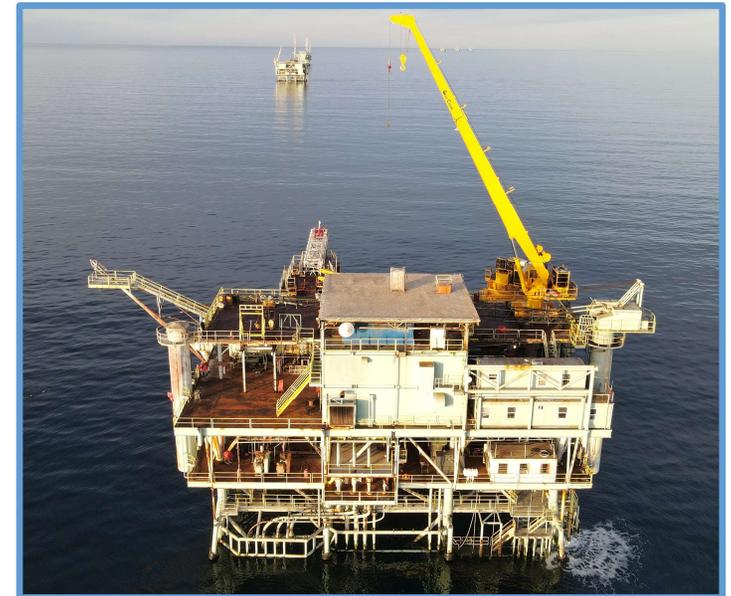
2025 Offshore Platforms

- **16 Platforms:**

- 6 operational (A, B, C, Henry, Hillhouse, Harmony)
- 2 in process of restarting (Heritage, Hondo)
- 1 awaiting method to get oil to the market (Irene)
- 5 completed plugging and abandoning, decommissioning in process (Habitat, Harvest, Hermosa, Hidalgo, Holly)

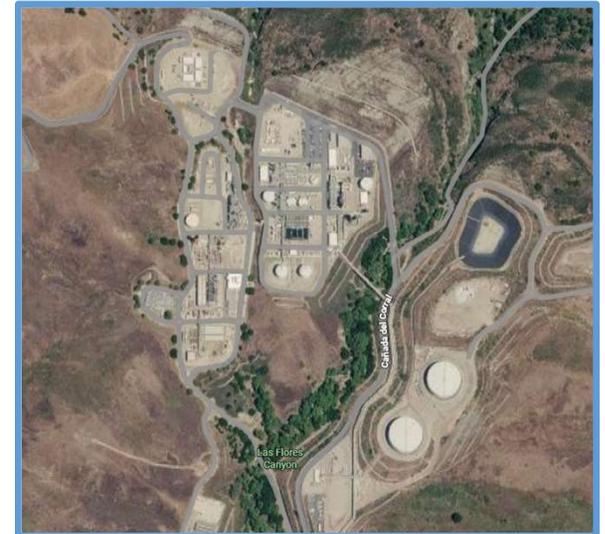
- **Platforms Hogan and Houchin**

- Platform Hogan undergoing plugging and abandoning
- Platform Houchin undergoing preparation for plugging and abandoning
- Variances from the District's Hearing Board for relief from fugitive hydrocarbon emission limits, operational limits, and leak & repair requirements until December 31, 2027



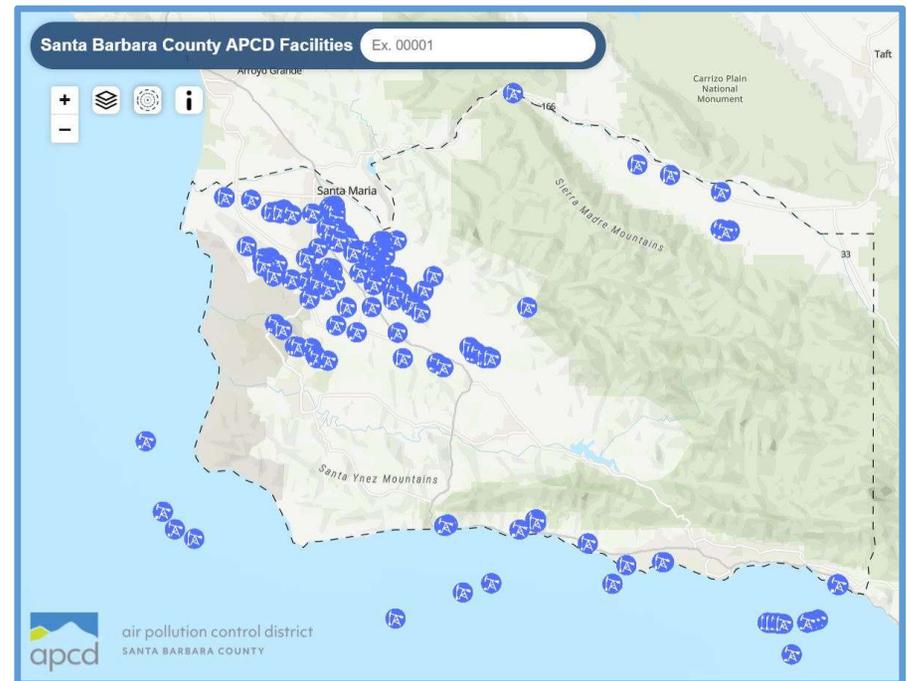
Sable Santa Ynez Unit Stationary Source Restart

- **Facilities:** Las Flores Canyon (LFC) Oil and Gas Plant, POPCO Gas Plant, Platform Harmony, Platform Heritage, Platform Hondo
- **District Oversight in 2025**
 - 16 inspections conducted
 - 7 violations issued
 - 9 Variances approved by the District Hearing Board
- **Timeline**
 - June 2024 - District permits transferred to Sable
 - April 2025 - Began restarting operations at LFC and Platform Harmony
 - May 2025 – Began moving oil from Platform Harmony to LFC
 - January 2026 – Began restarting operations at Platform Heritage
 - March 14, 2026 – Began shipping hydrocarbons from LFC to Pentland Station



Permit Program

- 4 permit engineers & 1 permit technician
- 183 permitted oil and gas facilities
 - 13% of 1,399 total facilities
- 398 active oil and gas permits
 - 18% of 2,203 total permits
- Permit requirements for new/modified facilities:
 - Best Available Control Technology
 - Air Quality Impact Analysis
 - Health Risk Assessment
 - Emission Offsets
- Permitted Facilities Map
 - map.ourair.org



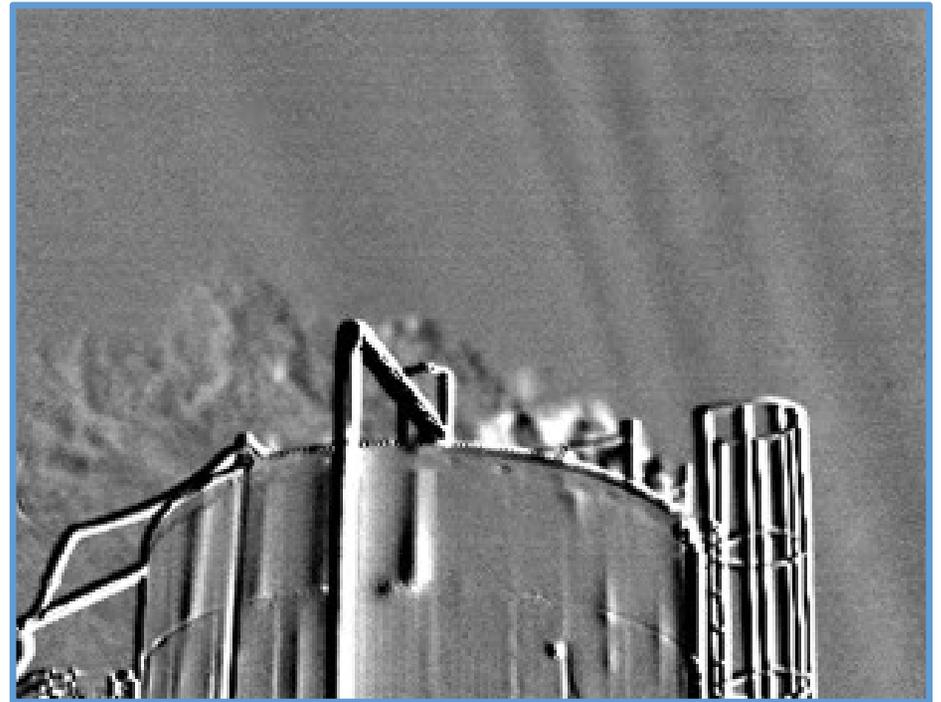
Inspections

- 5 inspectors
- Initial/SCDP: As needed
- Routine
 - *Major sources:* 2-4 times per year
 - *Small and medium sources:* once per year-
once every three years
 - *What determines inspection frequency:*
 - Source compliance history
 - District priorities and workload
 - Staffing levels



FLIR Infrared Camera for Methane Detection

- Used to screen for fugitive emissions (leaks) from equipment which is unsafe or difficult to access
- Any leaks discovered are quantified with the Toxic Vapor Analyzer (TVA) per EPA Method 21 to determine compliance with applicable rules and permit conditions



Inspection Equipment



FLIR GFX 320 Infrared Camera



Toxic Vapor Analyzer 2020



Personal H2S Monitor



Jerome J605 H2S Analyzer



H2S Colorimetric Tube and Pump

Public Nuisance / Hazardous Releases

- **AirPointer:**

- Transmits real-time emissions data
- Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
- Hydrogen sulfide (H2S)
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX)
- Ozone
- Meteorological conditions (wind, temperature)

- **Summa Cannister Sampling:**

- Point-in-time concentration of specific pollutants in the ambient air



Enforcement

- **Notice of Violation**

- Documents non-compliance with air quality requirements
- Initiates corrective action to comply
- Reduces air pollution

- **Monetary penalties**

- Incentive for continuing compliance

- **Ensuring compliance is achieved**

- Variances
- Compliance agreements
- Orders for abatement
- Civil/criminal prosecution



Compliance Statistics – 2025 Data

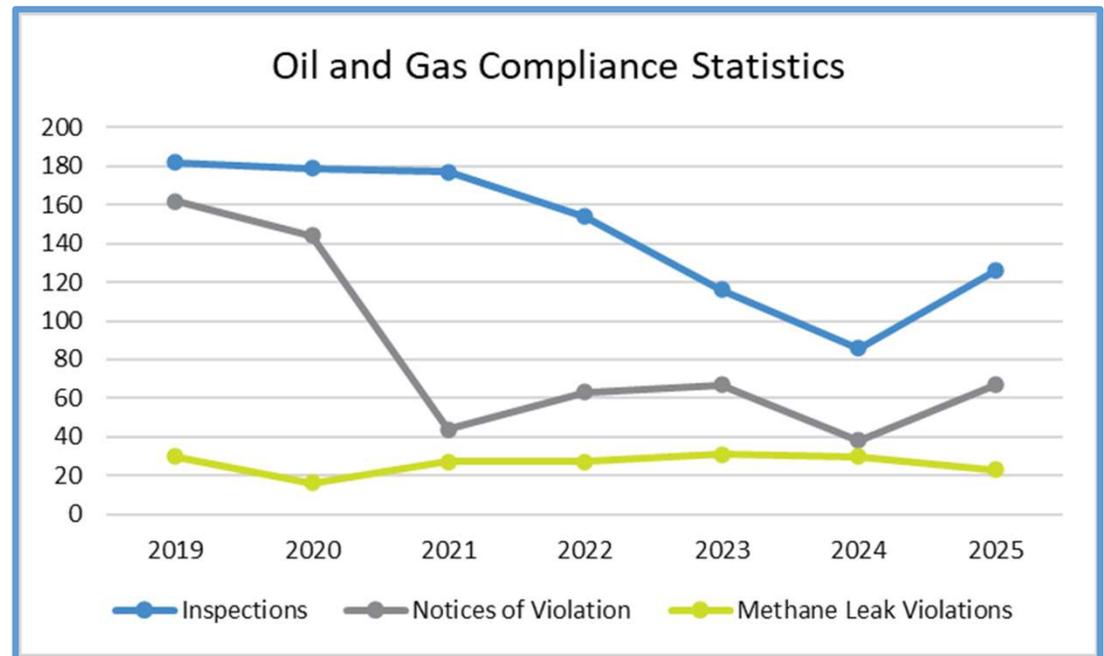
- **Oil and Gas Statistics:**

- 83 stationary sources
- 126 inspections conducted
- 67 violations issued
- 23 methane leak violations discovered
- \$148,730 violation penalties received
- 1,070 active wells
- 1,123 idle wells



Compliance Statistics - Trends

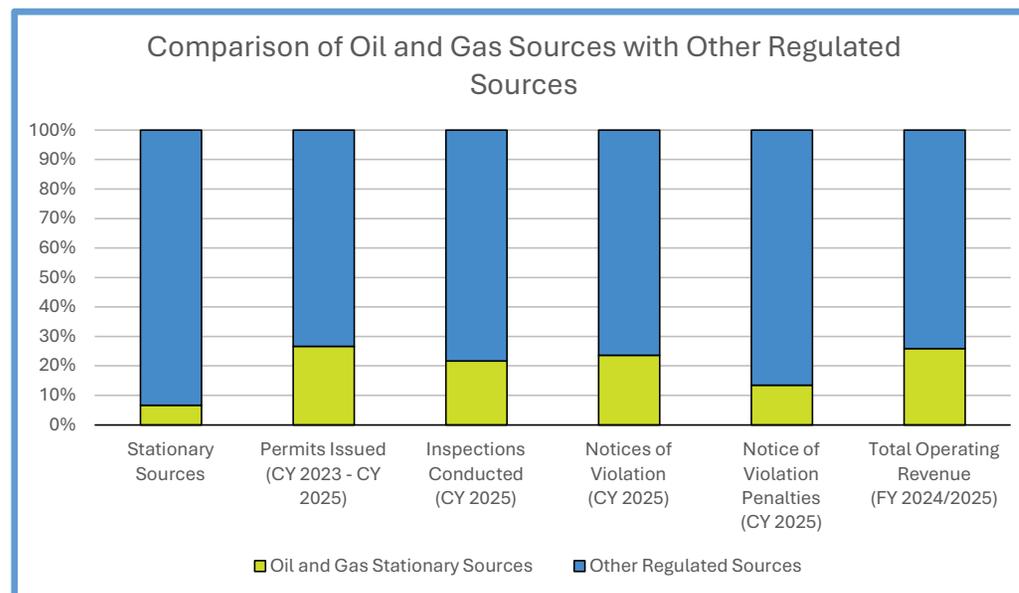
- **Addressing O&G Budget Deficits:**
 - FY 2023-2024 - Conducted Cost-Recovery and Fee Analysis Study
 - January 2024 - Adopted Cost-Recovery Policy
 - May 2024 - Adopted revised Fee Rule 210
- **2021 Violations Decrease:**
 - HVI Cat Canyon bankruptcy
- **2024 Inspection & Violation Decreases:**
 - Lead oil and gas staff departure
 - Time for onboarding and training new staff



Putting It Into Perspective

- **Comparing Oil and Gas Sources with Other Sources:**

- 7% of stationary sources
- 27% of total permits
- 22% of total compliance inspections
- 24% of total violations
- 13% of total violation penalties
- 26% of total operating revenue



District Revenue

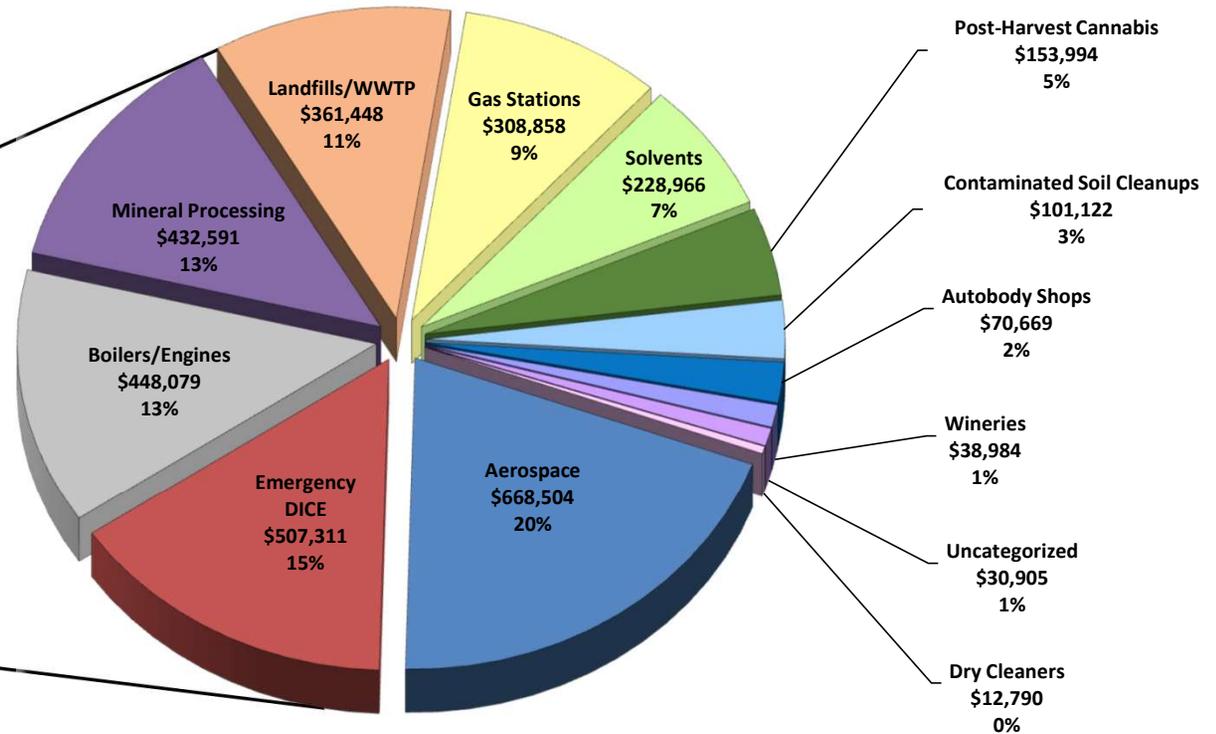
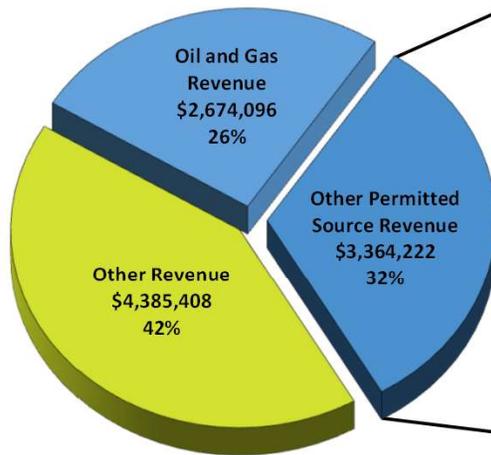
Other Permitted Source Revenue by Facility Category

FY 2024-2025

*Does not include Oil and Gas Revenue

Total Operating Revenue

FY 2024-2025



Interagency Coordination

- **The District coordinates with:**

- Local County agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies

- **Santa Barbara County Systems Safety & Reliability Review Committee:**

- Santa Barbara County P&D, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and the District
- Oil and gas project hazard reviews
- Monthly meetings
- Audits at oil and gas facilities several times per year



COUNTY of
one COUNTY
one FUTURE
SANTA BARBARA



CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

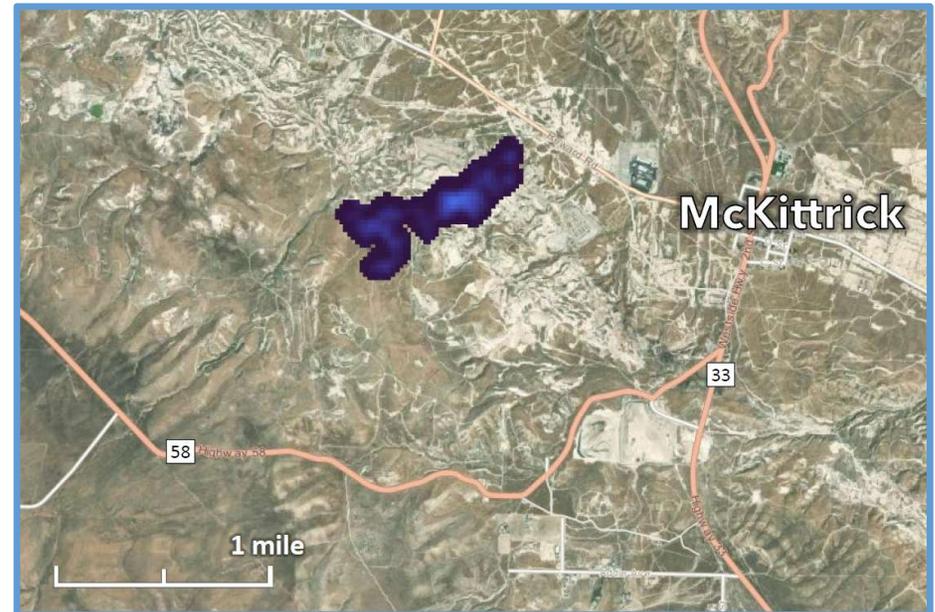


California
Department of Conservation
Geologic Energy Management



Methane Emissions

- **District Rule 331 Fugitive Emissions Inspection and Maintenance**
 - Regulates fugitive leaks at onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities
- **CARB Oil and Gas Methane Regulation**
 - Reduce oil and gas methane emissions
- **Methane Taskforce**
 - Lead by CARB and CalGEM
- **California Satellite Methane Project**
 - Satellite-based methane plume imagers to find methane leaks



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