



July 30, 2026

Matthew Thomas,
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office,
Bakersfield FO,
Central California DO,
Central Coast FO

Submitted via online portal to: [BLM National NEPA Register | CA 2026 Preliminary Parcel List 7 2 26.pdf Participation Period](#)

Re: Comments on the Central California District Oil and Gas Lease Sale (NEPA No. DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2026-0090-EA)

Dear Bureau of Land Management Representative:

The California Department of Conservation and its Geologic Energy Management Division (DOC/CalGEM) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments during the public scoping period for the proposed **Central California District Oil and Gas Lease Sale** (NEPA No. DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2026-0090-EA).

DOC/CalGEM recognizes the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) authority over leasing federal mineral interests and appreciates the longstanding coordination between our agencies regarding oil and gas development activities within California. As the state agency responsible for regulating oil, gas, and geothermal operations pursuant to Division 3 of the California Public Resources Code, DOC/CalGEM offers the following comments for consideration as the BLM prepares its environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

First, while the issuance of federal oil and gas leases authorizes the lessee to pursue future exploration and development, any subsequent oil and gas operations proposed on leased federal lands must also comply with all applicable California laws, regulations, and permitting requirements. Future development activities, including drilling, well operations, production, plugging and abandonment, and related activities, remain subject to DOC/CalGEM's regulatory jurisdiction where applicable. Nothing in the lease sale or subsequent federal approvals relieves an operator of its obligation to obtain all required state approvals and comply with applicable provisions of the California Public Resources Code, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, and other applicable state environmental and resource protection requirements.

Second, DOC/CalGEM encourages continued early coordination between the BLM and CalGEM throughout both the lease sale process and any subsequent project-specific review. Early consultation allows both agencies to identify applicable regulatory requirements, evaluate potential operational constraints, exchange technical information, and ensure that the project proponents are aware of the approvals that may be required before development activities may commence. Continued collaboration between our agencies will promote efficient permitting while ensuring that public safety, environmental protection, and resource conservation objectives are appropriately addressed.

Third, DOC/CalGEM has identified that several of the nominated lease parcels appear to overlap with or occur within Health Protection Zones (HPZs), as designated pursuant to California law. (See Figures 1-5.) Because oil and gas operations proposed within or affecting HPZs may be subject to additional state requirements and review, DOC/CalGEM recommends that the BLM identify these parcels during its environmental analysis and coordinate with DOC/CalGEM regarding any proposed future development within these areas.

The following lease parcels appear to be wholly or partially located within HPZs (See **Figures 1** and **A-D**):

- **16 Parcels Partially within HPZ:**

- CA-2099-01-0173 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0136 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0132 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0175 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0177 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0144 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0081 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0103 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0149 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0123 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0162 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0143 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0168 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0165 (Figure B)
- CA-2099-01-0147 (Figure C)
- CA-2099-01-0188 (Figure C)

- **Three Parcels Entirely within HPZ:**

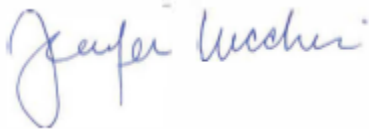
- CAP106818522 (Figure A)
- CA-2099-01-0135 (Figure B)
- CAP106820777 (Figure D)

DOC/CalGEM requests that these parcels receive particular attention during the NEPA analysis and that future lessees be advised of applicable California requirements that may affect project planning, permitting, and operations.

Finally, DOC/CalGEM welcomes continued coordination with the BLM during preparation of the environmental documentation associated with this lease sale and any subsequent project-specific environmental review. Although leasing itself does not authorize surface-disturbing activities, future Applications for Permit to Drill and other development proposals may require additional environmental analysis and coordination between federal and state agencies. Early engagement will help ensure that relevant technical information, regulatory requirements, and environmental considerations are incorporated into future environmental documents and facilitate efficient review of proposed development activities.

DOC/CalGEM appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and looks forward to continuing its partnership with the BLM to support responsible resource development while protecting public health, safety, natural resources, and the environment. If you have any questions regarding these comments or wish to coordinate on future environmental review, please contact DOC/CalGEM at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jennifer Lucchesi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Lucchesi
Director, Department of Conservation

Figure A

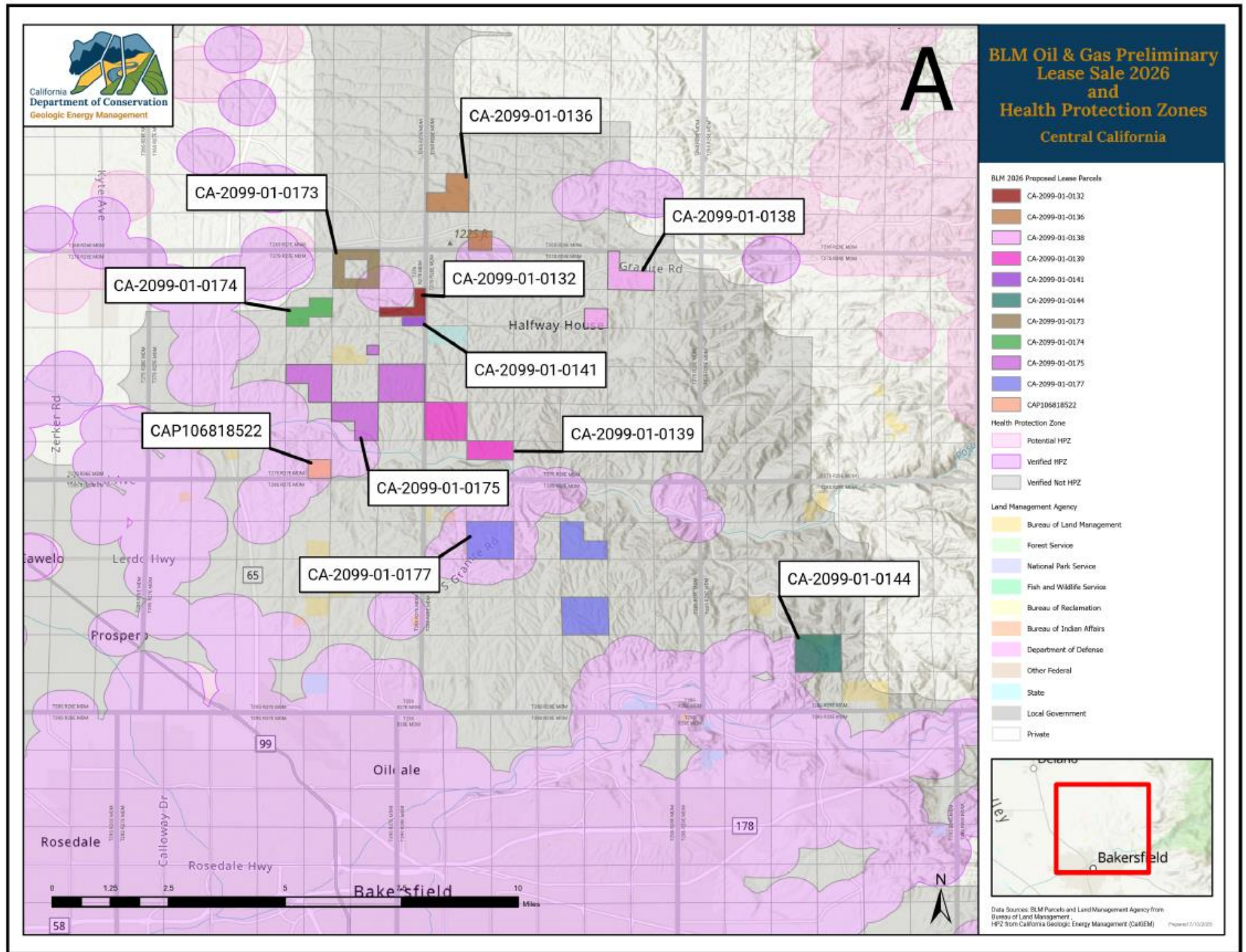


Figure C

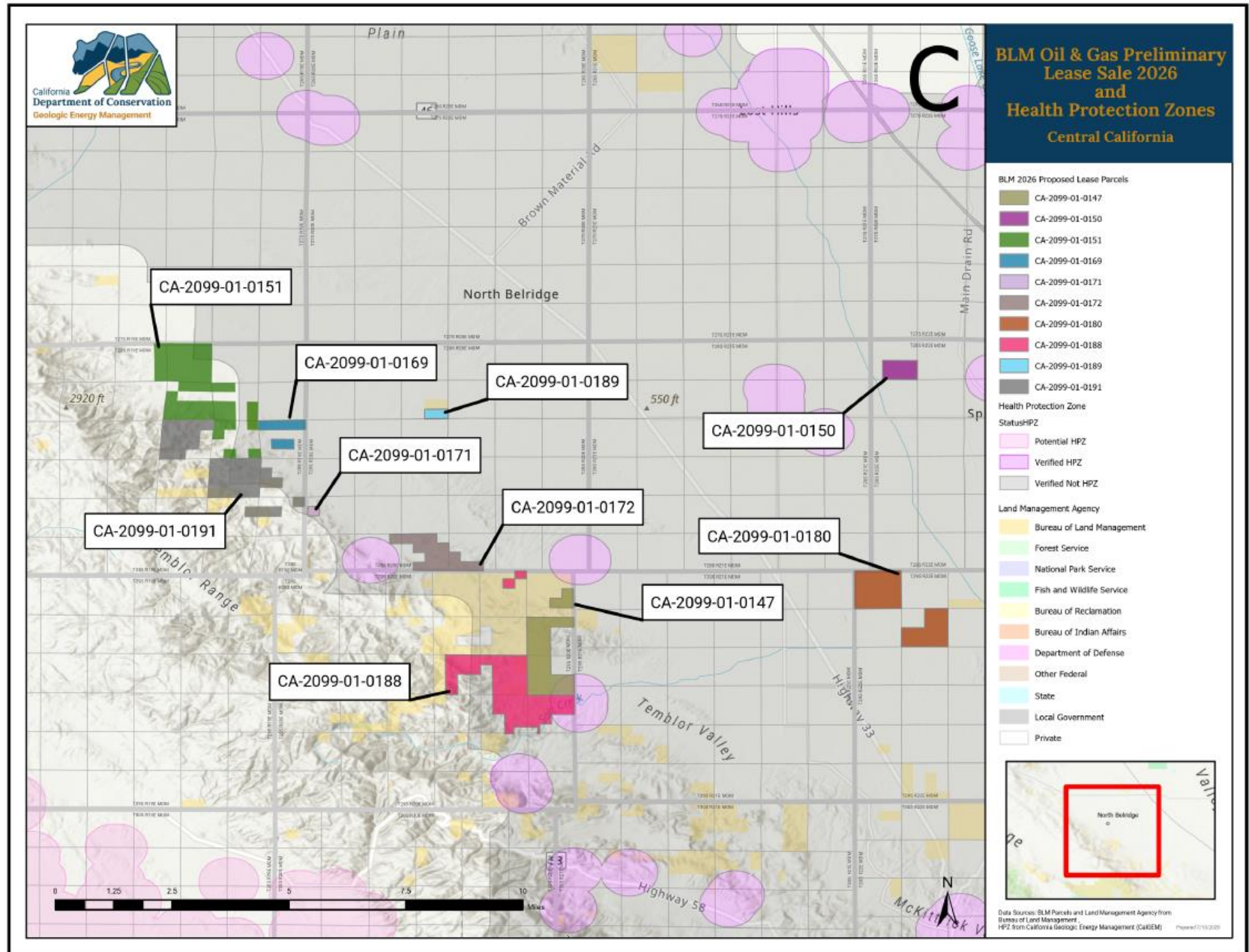


Figure D

