



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

June 8, 2017

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX  
DIRECTOR

Michael Richardson  
Humboldt County Planning Division  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Subject: Humboldt County General Plan Update  
SCH#: 2007012089

Dear Michael Richardson:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Draft EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on June 7, 2017, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2007012089  
**Project Title** Humboldt County General Plan Update  
**Lead Agency** Humboldt County

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**Type** EIR Draft EIR

**Description** The project consists of updating the Humboldt County General Plan (referred to as the proposed General Plan Update or GPU for purposes of this EIR). A complete project description is in chapter 2 of this EIR, but in Summary, the GPU is intended to be a comprehensive update of the County's current 1984 General Plan. The General Plan expresses the community's goals for the distribution of future land uses for approximately the next 20 years, both public and private, and establishes policies, standards and implementation measures for future development. It reviews and revises the basic assumptions regarding population projections and future land use demand and proposes land use designations and diagrams (maps), together with policies to meet that demand in a manner consistent with State law.

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**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Michael Richardson  
**Agency** Humboldt County Planning Division  
**Phone** 707-268-3723 **Fax** 707 268-3792  
**email**  
**Address** 3015 H Street  
**City** Eureka **State** CA **Zip** 95501

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**Project Location**

**County** Humboldt  
**City**  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long**  
**Cross Streets**  
**Parcel No.**  

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Base</b>
			HB&M

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**Proximity to:**

**Highways**  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways**  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** update to GP

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**Project Issues** Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Landuse; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Aesthetic/Visual; Coastal Zone; Economics/Jobs; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Solid Waste; Vegetation; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Cumulative Effects; Agricultural Land

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**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 1E; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, District 1; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Native American Heritage Commission

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**Date Received** 04/21/2017 **Start of Review** 04/24/2017 **End of Review** 06/07/2017

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State of California • Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Conservation  
**Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources**  
Northern District – Sacramento  
801 K Street • MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 322-1110 • FAX (916) 445-3319

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
Kenneth A. Harris Jr., State Oil and Gas Supervisor

CEQA  
6-7-17  
E

June 6, 2017

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 06 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

State Clearinghouse  
PO Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Subject: CEQA project: SCH #2007012089  
Lead Agency: Humboldt County  
Project Title: Humboldt County General Plan Update

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) oversees the drilling, operation, maintenance, and plugging and abandonment of oil, natural gas, and geothermal wells. Our regulatory program emphasizes the wise development of oil, natural gas, and geothermal resources in the state through sound engineering practices that protect the environment, prevent pollution, and ensure public safety. Northern California is known for its rich gas fields and Humboldt County for one of the first oil fields in California at Petrolia.

From the California Office of Historic Preservation:

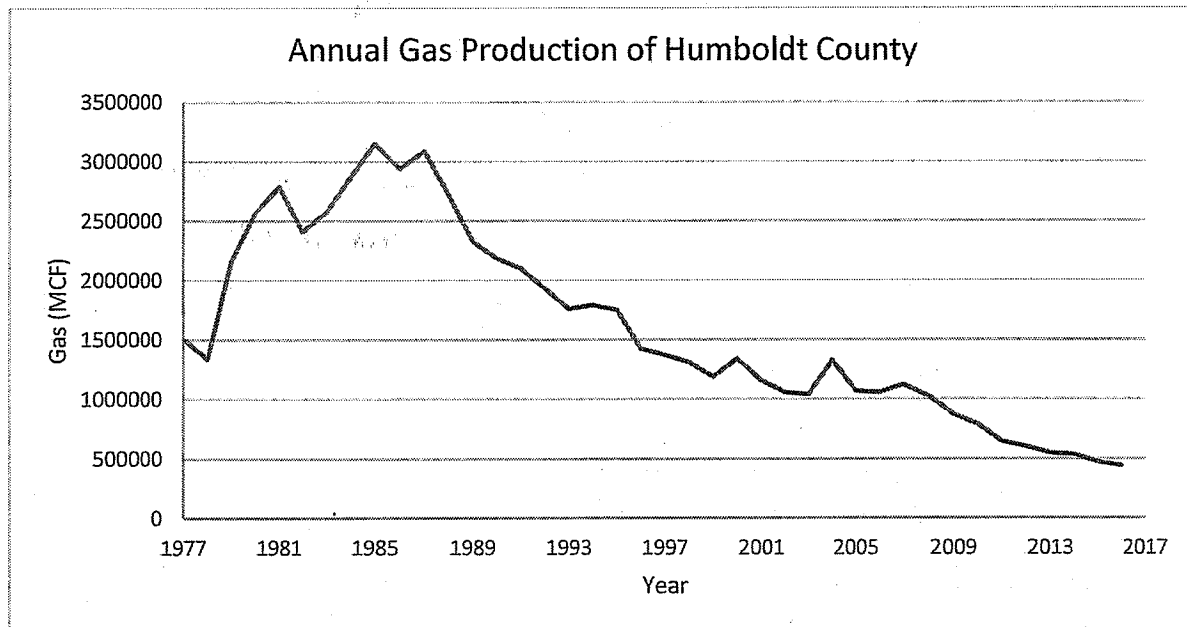
"California's first drilled oil wells that produced crude to be refined and sold commercially were located on the North Fork of the Mattole River approximately three miles east of here. The old Union Mattole Oil Company made its first shipment of oil from here, to a San Francisco refinery, in June 1865. Many old well heads remain today."

The Division maintains digital production data dating back to 1977. From the years 1977 to 2016 64,232,699 (Mcf) of natural gas was produced from gas wells located in Humboldt County (Figure 1). Currently there are two active fields and one idle field in Humboldt County (Figures 2 and 3). Tompkins Hill Gas Field, located approximately 1-mile north of Fortuna, has 22 active wells and 17 idle wells. The Grizzly Bluff Gas Field located near Ferndale has 3 active wells and 7 idle wells. The Petrolia Gas field has 3 idle wells that are shut in and not producing gas. We do not have any records of the oil production.

Data for wells located on private and public land shown on the maps can be found at the Division's websites:

<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#close>

<https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellSearch>



**Figure 1** Annual production of natural gas from Humboldt County 1977-2016.

Permitting agency(s) and property owner(s) should be aware of, and fully understand, that significant and potentially dangerous issues may be associated with development near oil and gas wells. These issues are non-exhaustively identified in the following comments, and are provided by the Division for consideration by the permitting agency, in conjunction with the property owner and/or developer, on a parcel-by-parcel or well-by-well basis.

1. Maintaining sufficient access to an oil or gas well may be generally described as maintaining "rig access" to the well. Rig access allows a well servicing rig and associated necessary equipment to reach the well from a public street or access way, solely over the parcel on which the well is located. A well servicing rig, and any necessary equipment, should be able to pass unimpeded along and over the route, and should be able to access the well without disturbing the integrity of surrounding infrastructure.
2. The Division recommends that a permitting agency consider the use of surface mitigation measures as a condition for project approval, if and when appropriate. Examples of surface mitigation measures include venting systems for wells, venting systems for parking lots, patios, and other hardscape, methane barriers for building foundations, methane detection systems, and collection cellars for well fluids. The Division **does not** regulate the design, installation, operation, or adequacy of such measures. The Division recommends that such surface mitigation measures are designed, installed, and operated by qualified engineers. The permitting of surface mitigation measures falls under the jurisdiction of the permitting agency.
3. If during the course of development of a parcel any unknown well(s) is discovered, the Division should be notified immediately so that the newly discovered well(s) can be incorporated into the records and investigated.

4. The Division recommends that any soil containing significant amounts of hydrocarbons to be disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. Please notify the appropriate authorities if soil containing significant amounts of hydrocarbons is discovered during development.
5. The Division recommends that any wells found in the course of this project and any pertinent information obtained after the issuance of this letter, be communicated to the appropriate county recorder for inclusion in the title information of the subject real property. This is to ensure that present and future property owners are aware of (1) the wells located on the property, and (2) potentially significant issues associated with any improvements near oil or gas wells.

No well work may be performed on any oil or gas well without written approval from the Division in the form of an appropriate permit. This includes, but is not limited to, mitigating leaking fluids or gas from abandoned wells, modifications to well casings, and/or any other re-abandonment work. (NOTE: the Division regulates the depth of any well below final grade (depth below the surface of the ground). Title 14, Section 1723.5 of the California Code of Regulations states that all well casings shall be cut off at least 5 feet but no more than 10 feet below grade. If any well needs to be lowered or raised (i.e. casing cut down or casing riser added) to meet this grade regulation, a permit from the Division is required before work can start.)

To reiterate, the permitting agency, property owner, and/or developer should be aware of, and fully understand, that the above comments are made by the Division with the intent to encourage full consideration of significant and potentially dangerous issues associated with development near oil or gas wells.

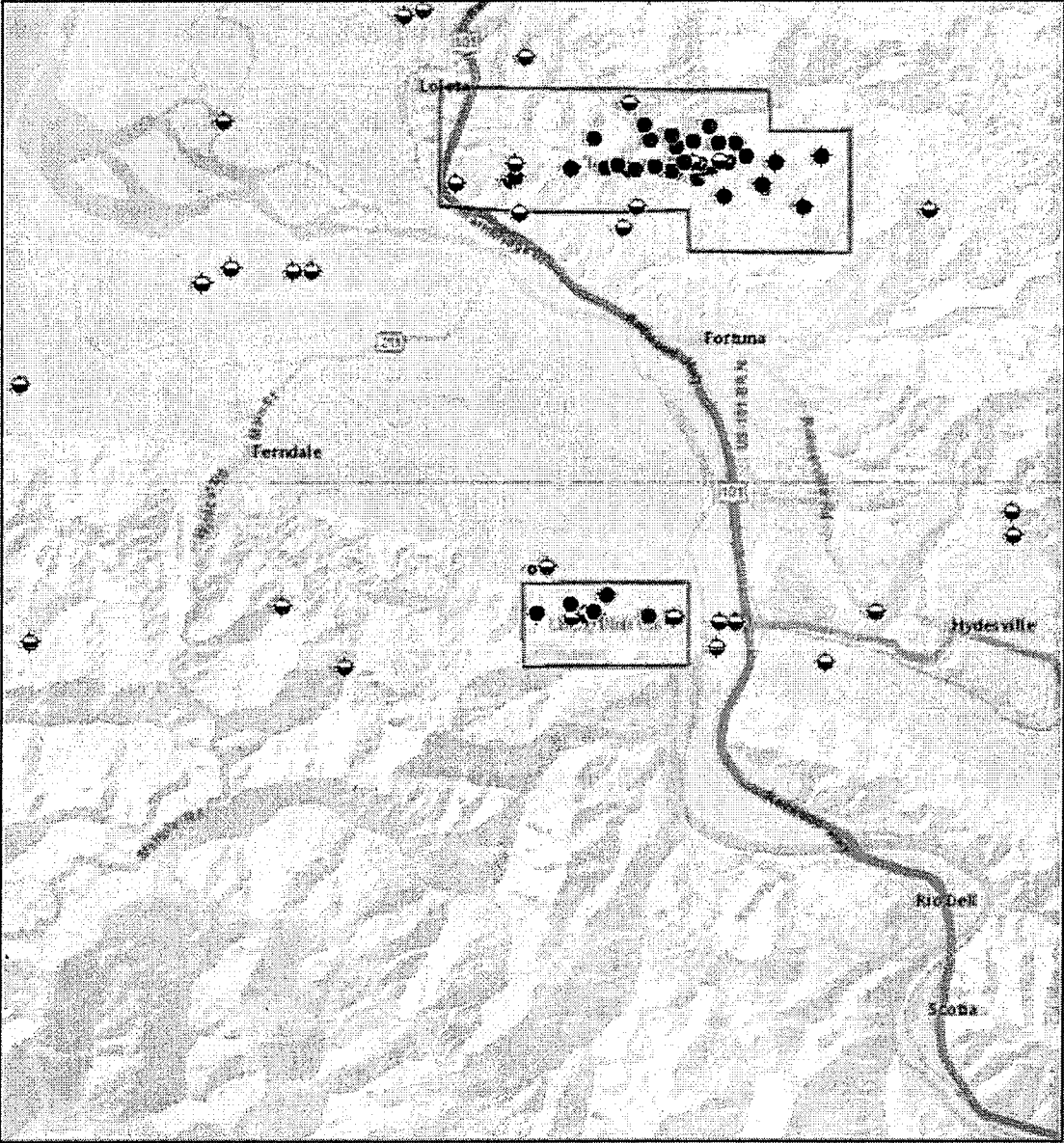
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

*Charlene L Wardlow*

Charlene L Wardlow  
Northern District Deputy

### Active Fields



May 26, 2017

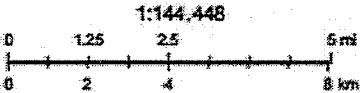
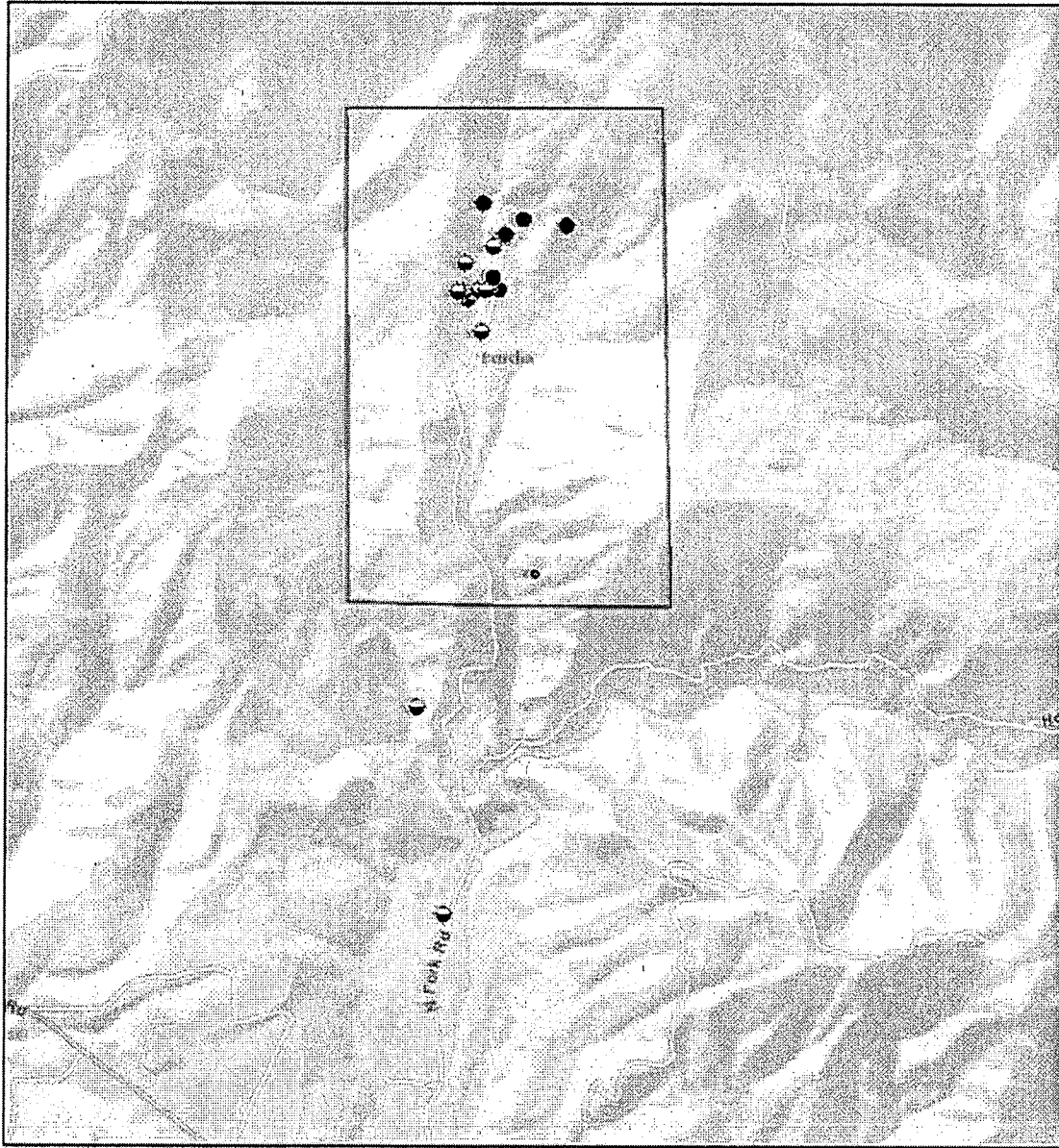


Figure 2 The two currently active gas fields; Tompkins Hill Gas and Grizzly Bluff Gas.

### Petrolia Gas



May 26, 2017

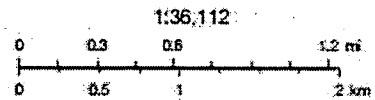


Figure 3 Petrolia Gas Field located on the hills above Petrolia.