



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, California 93308-6837
www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield



July 2, 2014

In Reply Refer To:
2710(P)
CACA 52759
CACA 52334
(CA016.45)

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review is a Proposed Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed sale of 67 acres of public land in Santa Barbara and Tulare counties in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bakersfield Field Office. The BLM prepared this document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable law and policy.

The BLM has received requests for direct sales of three parcels of public lands, two of which are carried forward in this Proposed Plan Amendment and EA. The Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District desires to purchase approximately 61 acres of public land in Tulare County that is surrounded by their private land for preservation and watershed protection as part of a Habitat Conservation Plan. ARC Vineyards, LLC desires to purchase approximately six acres in Santa Barbara County to resolve an inadvertent unauthorized use and to set aside the unused area to meet Santa Barbara County's development/permitting requirements for open space.

The 67 acres of public land were not identified for sale in the 1997 Caliente Resource Management Plan (RMP), and in order to sell the public land to these two parties, BLM must amend the Caliente RMP to identify the land as suitable for sale under the authority of section 203 of the FLPMA. If approved, the Proposed Plan Amendment would find that sale of the public land to Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District and ARC Vineyards, LLC would serve important public objectives and meet the criteria for sale at section 203 of the FLPMA.

The Proposed Caliente RMP Amendment and EA are available on the BLM Bakersfield Field Office web site at: www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield.html. The proposed Plan Amendment is open for a 30-day review, comment and protest period, ending on August 1, 2014. The requirements for filing a timely protest are specified in BLM's resource management planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2 and on BLM's website at:

www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/planning_overview/protest_resolution/filinginstructions.html#Regulations

Comments (but not protests) may be sent to: BLM Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308, Attn: Gabriel Garcia, or faxed to: (661) 391-6143, or e-mailed to: Maria Soto at msoto@blm.gov. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM must resolve any protests on the proposed plan amendment before issuing a decision. If no changes to the Proposed Plan Amendment and EA are warranted based on comments received, the BLM will prepare a Decision Record that documents our decision on the proposed plan amendment and proposed land sale.

For additional information or clarification regarding the proposed plan amendment or the planning process, please contact Maria Soto, Realty Specialist, at the BLM Bakersfield Field Office at (661) 391-6023, or email msoto@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gabe Garcia

Gabriel Garcia
Field Manager

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