



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

For Release: June 10, 2004

CCal-04-32

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**BLM Asks for Oil Industry Interests for Upcoming
October Lease Sale**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to conduct its next competitive oil and gas lease sale on October 27, 2004, and wants to include unleased federal lands that industry is interested in leasing.

The BLM requests the oil and gas industry to identify unleased federal lands in California that they believe have potential for development. BLM calls this an "expression of interest" whereby an individual or company provide the BLM a letter or form listing the legal descriptions of lands desired for lease.

The BLM periodically offers for lease federal lands that have potential for oil and gas development. A Lease Sale Notice will be published in early September 2004 listing the parcels that will be offered for lease and information on the location, time and procedures for the lease sale.

Expressions of interest must be received by July 19, 2004 in order to be considered for inclusion in the sale. They should be sent to the BLM-California State Office, Attention: Debra Marsh at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1618, Sacramento, CA. 95825.

The BLM plays a critical role in the implementation of the National Energy Policy (NEP) adopted by the President in May 2001. One component of the NEP strategy is to increase production of oil and gas. California depends on oil and gas for over 90% of its energy needs to fuel cars, run factories, and heat homes.

Public lands in California produced 16 million barrels of oil and 6.7 BCF of gas in FY 2003, and helped reduce the dependency on foreign oil imports. Half of the public land oil and gas revenue generated (in royalties, rents, and bonus) comes back to the State of California each year. The money is further distributed to county governments. California has received between \$12 and \$13 million dollars annually over the last 3 years, which benefits the state and counties in economic activities and employment.

Questions regarding the sale or to obtain a form to submit an expression of interest should be made to Nora DeDios with the BLM-Bakersfield Field Office at (661) 391-6129.

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Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308