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DIRECT NUMBER: (949) 553-7573 RWALDOW@JONESDAY.COM

January 15, 2014

VIA UPS

Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County ATTN: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Room 407 Information and Referral 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Re: <u>Proposed Offshore Oil Production Tax</u>

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors Adam, Carbajal, Farr and Wolf:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Venoco, Inc., to urge that you abandon any effort to include within the proposed onshore oil production tax base oil production derived from State-owned tidelands. Contrary to staff's assertion at the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 16, 2013 (the "Prior Meeting"), the tax revenue estimates from the Grand Jury report did not include State tideland oil production. There is good reason for this, as inclusion of any such oil production in the tax base will present serious jurisdictional issues that will give rise to costly litigation and probable ultimate defeat of the proposed tax.

### Prior Tax Revenue Estimates Did Not Include County Offshore Oil Production

It is clear from your collective reaction at the Prior Meeting that none of you had expected the proposed tax would reach County offshore oil production, and several of you were rightly concerned about the implications of going down that path. Following staff's representation that the tax revenue estimates with which you were familiar already included State tidelands oil production, you found yourselves having to wrestle with whether or not to keep the focus of the proposed tax on onshore oil production, thereby bringing in far less revenue than previously thought, or to expand the reach of the proposed tax to include State tideland oil production. Given the revenue implications and, based on staff's representation, what appeared to be the implicit acceptance of such an approach by the Grand Jury (given that the original tax estimates are contained in the Grand Jury report), you understandably directed staff to prepare optional proposed language that would include State tideland oil production within the oil production tax base.

We were as surprised as you to hear staff report that the working tax estimates included offshore oil production in State tidelands and felt compelled to check. Upon review of the Grand Jury report, we discovered that your staff is mistaken. The report focuses exclusively on onshore oil production and, in fact, expressly notes that it "does not cover offshore oil production . . . ."

Board of Supervisors January 15, 2014 Page 2

(see Grand Jury report at page 3). Further, all of the County oil production numbers cited in the report—which serve as the basis for all discussion to-date regarding the anticipated revenue from the adoption of an oil production tax—relate exclusively to <u>onshore</u> County production. No portion of the revenue estimates from the Grand Jury report relate in any way to oil production from the State tidelands.

The Grand Jury report identifies County oil production in each of 1964 (8,950,404 barrels), 2005 (1,913,093 barrels) and 2012 (3,388,668 barrels); numbers the report claims to have obtained from the Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). Using the oil production information found on the DOGGR website (www.conservation.ca.gov, "Online Production and Injection"), we discovered that Santa Barbara County's reported onshore oil production in 2005 was 1,913,940 barrels (a figure consistent with the 1,913,093 barrels noted in the Grand Jury report), while Santa Barbara offshore oil production (i.e., that extracted from wells in State tidelands) the same year was an additional 1,041,438 barrels. See Exhibit A. Similarly, the DOGGR website reports that Santa Barbara County onshore oil production in 2012 was 3,421,949 barrels (again, a number generally consistent with the 3,388,668 barrels noted in the Grand Jury report), while an additional 1,171,615 barrels of oil were extracted in State tidelands offshore Santa Barbara County. See Exhibit A see also Exhibit B (reporting total Santa Barbara County oil production in 2012 was 4,595,018 barrels; an amount equal to the sum of County onshore production (3,421,949 barrels) and County offshore oil production in State tidelands (1,171,615 barrels)).

### <u>Inclusion of County Offshore Oil Production in Tax Base Would Present Serious</u> <u>Jurisdictional Issues</u>

Staff's recommended inclusion of County offshore oil production in the proposed tax base should be rejected, not only because it is beyond the scope of that intended by the Grand Jury, but more importantly because it needlessly subjects the proposed tax, if adopted by the voters, to certain litigation and probable defeat, as it amounts to improper County meddling in oil leasing activities that are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

Section 6871 of the California Public Resources Code expressly provides:

No political subdivision of the State or any city or county or any official of either or any of them shall grant or issue any lease, license, easement, privilege, or permit vesting authority in any person to take or extract oil or gas from tide or submerged lands whether filled or unfilled of which the State is the owner or from which the State has the right to extract oil or gas, or both.

(emphasis added).

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A business license tax operates to confer a license or privilege to a person to conduct business activities in a jurisdiction so long as that person pays the requisite tax. Here, the proposed business license tax would impose as a condition precedent to an oil producer's conduct of State oil leasing activities the obtainment of a County business license, a privilege granted by the County upon payment of the business license tax. But, to impose its business license tax on State oil leasing activities, Santa Barbara County will have to establish that it has concurrent jurisdiction over these activities—a tough road in light of the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 (granting ownership of the tidelands to the states) and sections 6216(a)&(b) of the California Public Resources Code which expressly and unequivocally reserve in the State Lands Commission exclusive jurisdiction over all oil leasing activities in the tidelands and in no uncertain terms prohibit a County from granting or issuing any license or privilege vesting authority in any person to take or extract oil or gas from State tidelands.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the County were allowed to impose a business license tax on oil production activities in State tidelands, any tax revenue received by the County from such activities would be subject to the public trust doctrine, thus limiting how such revenue may be used.

We suspect the Grand Jury limited its recommendation to onshore oil production because it properly recognized the State's exclusive jurisdiction over oil production activities in State tidelands. Should you decide to move forward with an oil production tax proposal, we strongly urge that you follow the lead of the Grand Jury and reject staff's recommendation that you expand the scope of the proposed onshore oil production tax to reach oil production activities over which the State Lands Commission has exclusive jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

Roburt J. Waldow

# EXHIBIT A OIL PRODUCTION TABLES

1/13/2014



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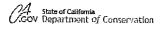
Online WellRecord Query for State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources.

How to Print Logs						
ge Online Production/Injection	Select a County to Search Well Records	Monterey (053) San Luis Obispo [079] SAN MIGUEL ISLA [220]	Santa Barbara [083] SANTA BARBARA O [283] Santa Clara [085]	SANTA CRUZ ISLA [128] SANTA CRUZ ISLA [228] SANTA ROSA ISLA [130]	SANTA KOSA ISLA [230]	
DOGGR Home Page	Back	Field	Operator	Lease	Get Well's	KK Back

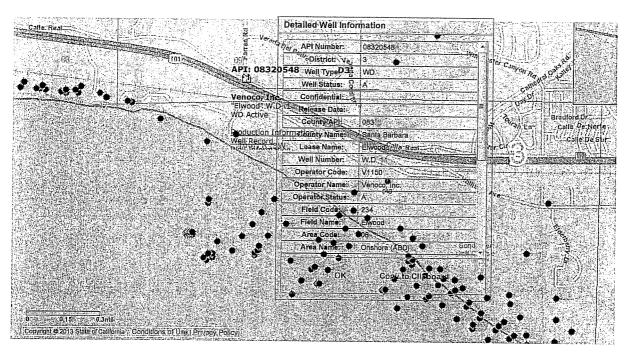
Last edited on March 29, 2011

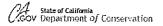
Contact: <u>doggrwebmaster@conservation.ca.gov</u> | Copyright © California Department of Conservation, 2011. All rights reserved.

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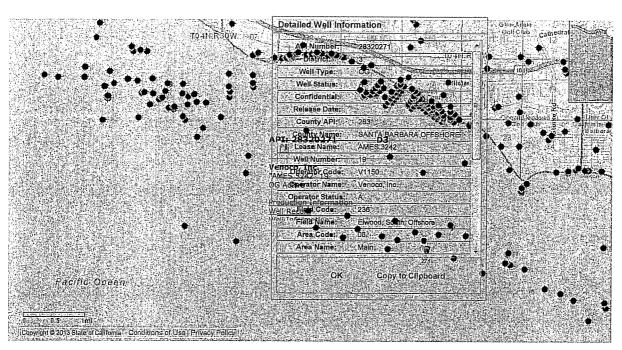


### DOGGR Online Mapping System





#### DOGGR Online Mapping System



# TAB 1

DOGGR'S REPORT OF OIL PRODUCTION SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ONSHORE (COUNTY API: 083) Number of Well Types: 6,092 . Well Types Having Production: 4,091 . Well Types Having Injection: 1,773

County: Santa Barbara & Senta Barbara County [083]

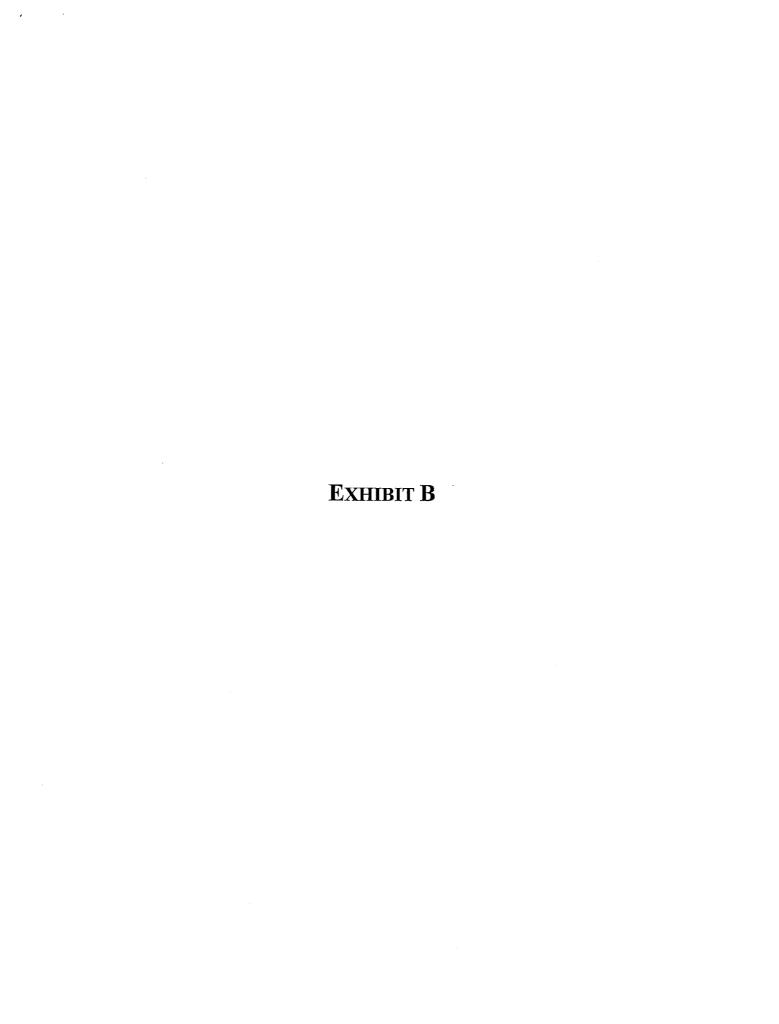
		Date:		Oil(661)			ter(bbn#	Gas (Mo			
	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY	2/2013 1/2013		0 17,608			0 90,208	961,12		<b>Days</b> 0 3,404	
	THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH	0/2013 9/2013		167,162 267,588		5)	543,766 796,542	306,676		18,833	
		8/2013 7/2013		394,672 375,202		± 9;	749,823 599,857	192,42 281,67		24,696 31,262	
	0.00	6/2013 5/2013		340,773 349,925		8,9	76,088	418,465 292,566		30,593 29,556	CONTRACTOR OF THE
	G 1 1 04	4/2013 % 3/2013		335,443. 338,048		8,8	212,522 365,772	275,412 310,25	igaet et e	28,728 28,471	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2/2013 1/2013		295,169			396,896 302,405	510,501 1,613,40	5	29,724 27,832	
	Tell Tel	2/2013 2/2012	1 <b>m</b> zg	314,177 3,195/262		<b>34</b> 31 84,	514,798 <b>448,677</b>	5,245,62 10,408,0	41.631.6	30,407 <b>283,506</b>	with the same of t
	1	2/2012 1/2012     # : 0/2012     # :	31	312,996 301,645		" - , 8,5	70,532 42,978	3,164,90 685,387		29,898 29,052	
		9/2012 9/2012 3/2012		296,198 291,877	12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (12 (	8,1	48,158 90,621	230,071 235,820		29,154 27,803	
	07	7/2012; 7/2012; 5/2012		301,258 284,253		8,4	43,617 99,407	259,244 199,548		28,748 28,133	
	30.05	7/2012 5/2012 1/2012		269,921, 283,358		· 8,2	43,545 76,246	204,566 266,747		26,934 27,586	
		7/2012 3/2012 2/2012		280,138 269,697		7,7	28,442 77,570	214,109 363,045		26,293 26,808	
	01	//2012 📜 🖣		255,846 274,762		8,2	24,182 35,896	631,805 1,996,66	2	26,380 28,391	
	. 12	al 2012		271,606		8,1	38,763	4,552,49	6	27,780	
	10	/2011 /2011		255,977 260,194		9,8	42,176 26,034	919/104 533/177	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE	26,601 27,097	
	08	)/2011 3/2011		236,322 248,949		7,9	39,738 50,921	211,681 265,276		25,689 26,882	
	. 06	/2011		254,492 238,413		7,2	09,745 67,470	234,524 200,165		26,983 26,093	
	11 - 04	/2011 /2011		234,134 230,006		7,0	63,390 11,313	204,304 197,927	100	25,908 24,201	
e.	. : : 02	/2011		(226,019) (185,158)		5,6	81,144 95,413	973,758 3,625,830		24,649 21,947	
	i di Tot	/2011 102011 100		203,452 <b>2844,722</b>			58,516 184,628	. 4,654,65 116,572,89	STATE OF STREET STREET, STREET	22,782 306,612	
	11	/2010 /2010		211,217 211,033)		6,5	64,948i 32,954	3,146,47. 2,327,15	2	24,437 23,568	
	09	/2010 /2010		218,562 213,234		6,7	52,017 32,461	183,759 465,411		24,089 23,289	
	. 07	/2010 /2010 /		207,648 209,532		6,3	14,921 72,569	591,906 283,446		.23,006 23,804	
	-14 O5,	/2010 /2010		201,720 217,665		6,6	90,421 25,270 h	258,329 172,833	A THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY	23,260 24,104 <sup>D</sup>	
	03,	/2010 /2010		214,215 213,083		6,60	37,043 33,257	170,235, 301,996		23,151 24,033	
	01,	/2010 /2010 "5"		201,276 215,939		6,5	97,947 39,890:	581,888 2,426,856		21,441, 23,636	
	12,	1,2010 10 16 /2009		2,535,124 228,020			13,698 / 1 L6,310	6,452,819		281,818 24,132	
	, 10,	/2009 /2009		214,433 218,995		6,38	35,787 37,267	867,144 271,199		22,845 23,295	
	08/	/2009 /2009		215,513 225,983		The state of the s	30,709 51,056	289,834 139,155		22,368 22,783	
P-12-14-12	07/	/2009		221,158		6,38	6,896	1,891,923		23,325	

05/2009 04/2009 03/2009 2	22,008 6,287 16,994 6,095 04,396 6,068 20,815 6,317 90,031 5,528	,718	22,375 290 22,125 355 21,217 884 22,313 20,192 4
01/2009 2 12/2008 2 11/2008 1 11/2008 1 10/2008 1	07,511 5,251 585,857 1 1 2 74,66 24,606 6,147 91,431 5,841 96,850 5,956	,828 J. 2,07 (481 J. 3) J. 3,27 (657 J. 5,30 (475 J. 3) 192 (131 J. 878	6) 113 19 266 965 113 11443 22,793 21,847 22,664
08/2008 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	85,990 5,916 94,208' 5,039 72,017 5,205 62,584 5,114 59,849 5,554 47,995 5,044	149     241       175     175       601     170       204     188	391 829 622 622 22,573 27,627 21,458 170 22,044 26,62 21,651
02/2008 01/2008 101/2008 12/2007 12/2007	51,061 5,210 42,948 4,803 54,425 5,209 083,964,11 5 7 5,605 59,742 5,605 59,109 5,841	268 368 883 6 4,63 012 5,75 1008 1 1 2 1 18,08 770 5,18	1964 22,267 4 2,839 19,983 19,983 21,428 20,081 19 21,700 21,700
10/2007 09/2007 108/2007 007/2007 106/2007 116	72/347 5,650 70/911 5,416 32/168 5,783 76/283 5,653 57/571 5,784	076	621     20,903       503     21,633       265     20,963       366     21,425       049     20,101       588     19,944
04/2007 16 03/2007 17 02/2007 18 01/2007 17	79,712 5,995, 4,646 5,685, 0,690 5,723, 13,825 5,197, 17,489 5,710,	283 155 379 490 633 77 395 973 17 37 574	7,464 (s. 1931) 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,017, 117,
11/2006 1517 10/2006 1818 09/2006 17 08/2006 18	3,207 5,624, 5,614 7, 5,679, 0,9937 5,677, 7,875 8, 5,698, 7,526 5,806, 6,8398 5,795	411 1,050 555 4440, 154 190 897 1 174,	0.426 1 18.668 18.720 19.5647
06/2006 16 05/2006 17 04/2006 15 03/2006 15	9,940 5,694, 7,734 55,594; 6,442 5,6 6,7 5,103, 2,593 5,100, 9,710 4,405,	752 165 681 148 649 362 665 1 1,649 929 17,989	981 17,999 1750 177,912 177,912 177,153 177,15
12/2005 2 14 12/2005 15 11/2005 15 10/2005 14 09/2005 16	5,481 4,493, 03,254 57 1 1 77,164,675 7,720 4,647, 1,664 4,730, 8,986 4,994, 0,019 4,974,	621 34 34 19 34 148 3,606 958 874, 110 148	5,081.     1,1216,128,48.       ,408     17,480.       ,599     17,684.       189     17,638.
07/2005 16 06/2005 175 05/2005 176 04/2005 176	4,344 5,332, 5,594 5,232,9 9,709 5,126, 9,924 5,607, 6,416 5,659, 9,927 5,555,	571 162 114 183, 935 1 172 225, 188 1 184,	328 18,1738 177977 177955 18,1738 177955 18,1738 18,17
02/2005 14 01/2005 16 10tal/2005 18 12/2004 18 111/2004 16	6,147. 4,986, 3,490. 5,146, 18,240 24,1 61,934, 2,513 5,523,6 0,290 5,192,6	1992 1,935 533 7 4,374 501 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 4 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	037 16;755 18 866 18;542 019:14 17 18;2137714 13370 082 18;14 17 18;828 050 18;14 18;201
09/2004	8,297 7,970 5,606 5,606 5,430,1	(49 1179)	187040

# TAB 2

DOGGR'S REPORT OF OIL PRODUCTION SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFSHORE (COUNTY API: 283) Number of Well Types: 401 Well Types Having Production: 286 Well Types: Having Injection: 31 County Santa Barbara & Section County Officere [283] Date (McI) 17/2013 117/228 117/28 117/228 117/228 117/228 117/228 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/28 117/ 09/2013 08/2013 08/2013 110/239 , 376,037 101,740 426 125,029 . 131,117 . 131,117 479,455 531,626 9-151,732 07/2013 06/2013 164,211 5 - 521,521 469,195 - 153,891 490,961 76,118 486,546 504;448 3458;3740; 美 89,337 美 建 美市 499,366 160 ft 542 76 ft 15 ft 16 ft 16 ft 15 ft 16 f 85,462 45,903 - 381, 66,055 473 09/2012 128,372 499,925 76,952 458 08/2012 138,962 510,070 79,118 487 07/2012 129,627 514,377 59,607 496 06/2012 . 501,959 88,681 482 05/2012 70,770 510,882 455 475,290 04/2012 65,877 429 .03/2012 455 02/2012 505,196 56,474 11/2011 68,463 510,875 45,994 441 10/2011 485,169 64,444 435 09/2011 461,578 398 08/2011 53,700 485,193 435 07/2011 06/2011 05/2011 329 72,266 449,671 451 477,881 453 04/2011 69,550 456,081 406 03/2011 70,042 498.992 02/2011, 61,282 01/2011 70,483 70,561 492,501 53,033 432 10/2010 72,142 487,989 55,831 452 09/2010 76,522 498;334 433 57,086 08/2010 76,217 516,000 62,613 437 07/2010 70,353 512,069 06/2010 279,524 41,036 327 05/2010 817048 510,878 33,437 5525 04/2010 500.079 509 76,125 -30,683 03/2010 78,273 490,980 41,908 511. 02/2010 414,560 70,196 78,286 01/2010 Total 2010 12/2009 77,440 498,512 11/2009 78,496 497,928 53,262 480 10/2009 83,186 506,836 56,992 483 09/2009 78,270 483,983 47,629 08/2009 77,428 503,425 29,009 07/2009 54,079 338,495 11,776 06/2009

= 05/2009 = 03/2009 = 03/2009 = 02/2009 = 01/2009	80,825 80,226 79,991 4 1 64,888 89,810	442,167 423,7103 445,237 2293,1408 412,548	33,879 36,802 45,173 40,853 56,400	460 468 51 486 479 5
12/2008 12/2008 11/2008 10/2008 10/2008 10/2008 10/2008	93.397 93.397 84,602 73.316 34,354 79,630	416, 400 416, 400 396,950 322,617 217,362 404,557	71,643 71,643 59,793 48,885 20,470 68,744	498 477 416 416 229 5191
07/2008 06/2008 05/2008 04/2008 03/2008 02/2008	85,316 43,451 91,405 87,548 86,1829 77,032	415,966 216,614 439,291 449,450 443,973 384,652	74,964 43,941 91,505 94,041 79,191 65,823	5203 305 5465 5472 582 582
01/2008 11/11/1666/2009 12/2007 11/2007 10/2007 09/2007	93,738 3,74115,929,971,75,7 95,359 7,7,664 95,050 86,486	434,11.5 438,938 438,938 379,498 437,639 423,212	87,628; 87,920; 69,584; 96,812; 90,147;	5551 5413 464 525 491
08/2007 07/2007 06/2007 05/2007 04/2007 03/2007	927343 9629014 100,407 106,785 105,289 61,618	409,274 424,419 448,099 5 452,008 434,878 281,107	99,348 95,272 116,991 133,878 145,925 86,188	503.2 5413.8 570 517 518 322
02/2007 01/2007 12/2006 11/2006 10/2006	97,828 114,754 113,207 78,381 83,055	387,485 437,347 3,953,904,54 464,131 288,294	149,131 169,534 13,5 11,15340,790 170,842, 165,459,	495 601 h 617 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
09/2006 1 08/2006 07/2006 06/2006 05/2006	107,438 28,150 98,273 109,385 97,098	3057/88 1 371;359; 128;848; 376;289; 378;449; 411;414;	209.876; 171,320; 51,676; 188,196; 160,270; 145,643;	4665 5492 511 2228 6055 593 557
03/2006 02/2006 01/2006 1 17 11 Total 2006/1 17 1 12/2005	98/224 103/361 <sup>1</sup> 1 92/670 101/669 111/232	354,474 336,032 309,799 321,470 4,046,347 321,619	160,091 169,819 145,829 162,490 175,581	519 429 456 448 448 392
11/2005 16/2005 18/2005 08/2005 07/2005 06/2005	104,166 59,100' 63,040; 63,205 79,775 67,381	294,805 204,551 228,517 226,461 266,182 275,246	153,517, 119,142, 148,229 149,327, 200,397, 173,356	241 273 257 394 396 388
05/2005 04/2005 03/2005 02/2005 11 01/2005	75;779 110,328 105,936 88,122 113,374	287;857 294;224 276;712 222;654 267;849 31,666,677	185 095 195 189 195 123 167 998 198 893	474 436 430 3497 463
12/2004 11/2004 10/2004 09/2004 1 08/2004 07/2004	108-956 108,372 128,655 107,591 90,657 101,840	274;588; 262;985; 311;096; 267;564; 287;873; 296;095;	191/526 169/768 168/549 152/113 168/455 156/679	438 438 504 43319 441 507



## WELL COUNTS AND PRODUCTION OF OIL, GAS, AND WATER BY COUNTY - 2012

County	Well Count *		Oil Production	Net Gas Production			Water
County	Active	Inactive	(bbl) **	Associated Gas (Mcf)	Nonassociated Gas (Mcf)	Total Gas (Mcf)	Production (bbl)
Alameda.	6	1	14,601	0	0	0	46,052
Butte.	26	1	0	0	51,839	51,839	420
Colusa	225	129	0	0	9,886,381	9,886,381	104,561
Contra Costa	45	17	454	0	843,518	843,518	8,764
Fresno	1,946	1,571	5,992,763	714,642	357	714,999	66,040,632
Glenn.	259	60	0	0	8,521,530	8,521,530	80,390
Humboldt	26	29	0	0	638,124	638,124	7,420
Kern	42,875	15,803	141,481,290	160,638,575	2,904,518	163,543,093	1,828,374,391
Kings	175	188	137,127	190,197	153,748	343,945	908,558
Los Angeles	3,690	1,552	24,130,729	18,275,394	241,297	18,516,691	798,857,241
Madera	23	18	0	0	967,873	967,873	1,656
Merced	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Monterey	657	562	7,433,840	1,204,142	0	1,204,142	116,288,726
Orange	1,041	464	4,383,546	2,006,620	0	2,006,620	79,058,939
Sacramento	112	100	21,085	0	8,796,121	8,796,121	141,912
San Benito	18	23	5,007	46,929	7,155	54,084	1,669
San Bernardino	20	18	10,595	111	0	111	2,671
San Joaquin	157	94	184	0	2,970,015	2,970,015	67,689
San Luis Obispo	120	228	414,582	858,768	0	858,768	7,241,378
San Mateo	10	13	1,294	4,675	0	4,675	2,561
Santa Barbara	1,170	1,042	4,595,018	3,274,524	101	3,274,625	105,330,847
Santa Clara	13	2	40,006	39,598	0	39,598	24,765
Solano	126	148	9,932	0	4,796,836	4,796,836	89,955
Stanislaus	2	0	0	0	616,623	616,623	32,201
Sutter	289	130	0	0	10,499,715	10,499,715	114,525
Tehama	111	39	0	0	1,727,083	1,727,083	16,436
Tulare	75	20	48,142	0	0	0	3,954,749
Ventura	1,743	1,263	8,977,459	8,411,316	8,411,316	16,822,632	66,299,114
Yolo	25	56	578	0	229,860	229,860	2,314
Yuba	1	0	0	0	1,006	1,006	0
TOTAL	54,986	23,574	197,698,232	195,665,491	62,265,016	257,930,507	3,073,100,536

<sup>\*</sup> includes well count from Oil & Gas (OG), Dry Gas (DG) and Gas Storage (GS)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes condensate produced from from Dry Gas (DG) and Gas Storage (GS)