

---

# FAQs

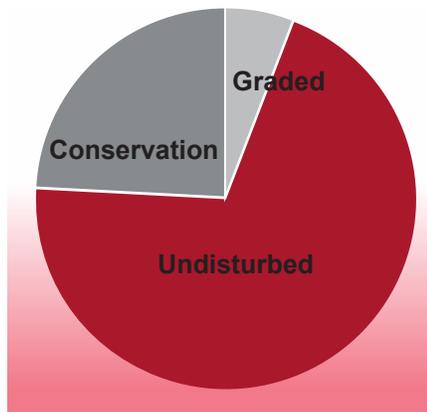
## East Cat Canyon Oil Field Project Oak Tree & Wildlife Habitat Conservation

---

Aera Energy is redeveloping the East Cat Canyon oil field, which is located in a rural area southeast of Santa Maria near other oil fields and ranchlands. Our goal is to produce the energy California needs while protecting human health and the environment.

### A 500-acre conservation area

Aera plans to dedicate 503 acres of the project site for a permanent conservation area to preserve and enhance oak tree and wildlife habitat. We are excited about its potential for environmental education, outdoor recreation, and carbon capture. Aera expects to provide an endowment to a county-approved land trust to sustainably manage the conservation area.



*More than 94% of the site will be unchanged or conserved.*

### Oak tree and wildlife protection

In addition to the existing oak woodlands in the conservation area, we will plant hundreds of new trees to mitigate unavoidable oak removals in the project area, as required by County law. In addition, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed with our plan to reserve part of the conservation area as habitat for the endangered California Tiger Salamander.

To find out more, please get in touch:  
(805) 361-8800  
[AeraEastCatCanyon@aeraenergy.com](mailto:AeraEastCatCanyon@aeraenergy.com)

### North county hiking trails

The Santa Barbara County Conservation Blueprint Project cites the lack of trails and outdoor public access in north county. We plan to explore how the Conservation Area can help fill this need working with Santa Barbara trails and hiking groups.

### Carbon farming

Aera is known for finding innovative ways to produce energy while protecting the environment. We were excited when Santa Barbara conservation groups, ranchers, and agencies introduced us to carbon farming. The process involves the application of a thin layer of compost to the soil, which effectively captures carbon, retains soil moisture, improves grazing productivity, and reduces greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

### An outdoor classroom

The site's natural features and the habitat preservation activities that will occur there make the conservation area an attractive natural classroom. In fact, environmental education groups have already asked to use this beautiful open space to conduct science and nature education programs, and we look forward to welcoming them.



*Blochman School students planting oak trees at East Cat Canyon Conservation Area.*