

Aera Energy LLC's Southwest San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan & Natural Community Conservation Plan

Public Briefings

December 2018



Overview

- Project Description
 - Southwest San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)
 - Regulatory Background and Process
- HCP/NCCP Scope
- Species and Natural Communities Conservation Concepts



Regulatory Background

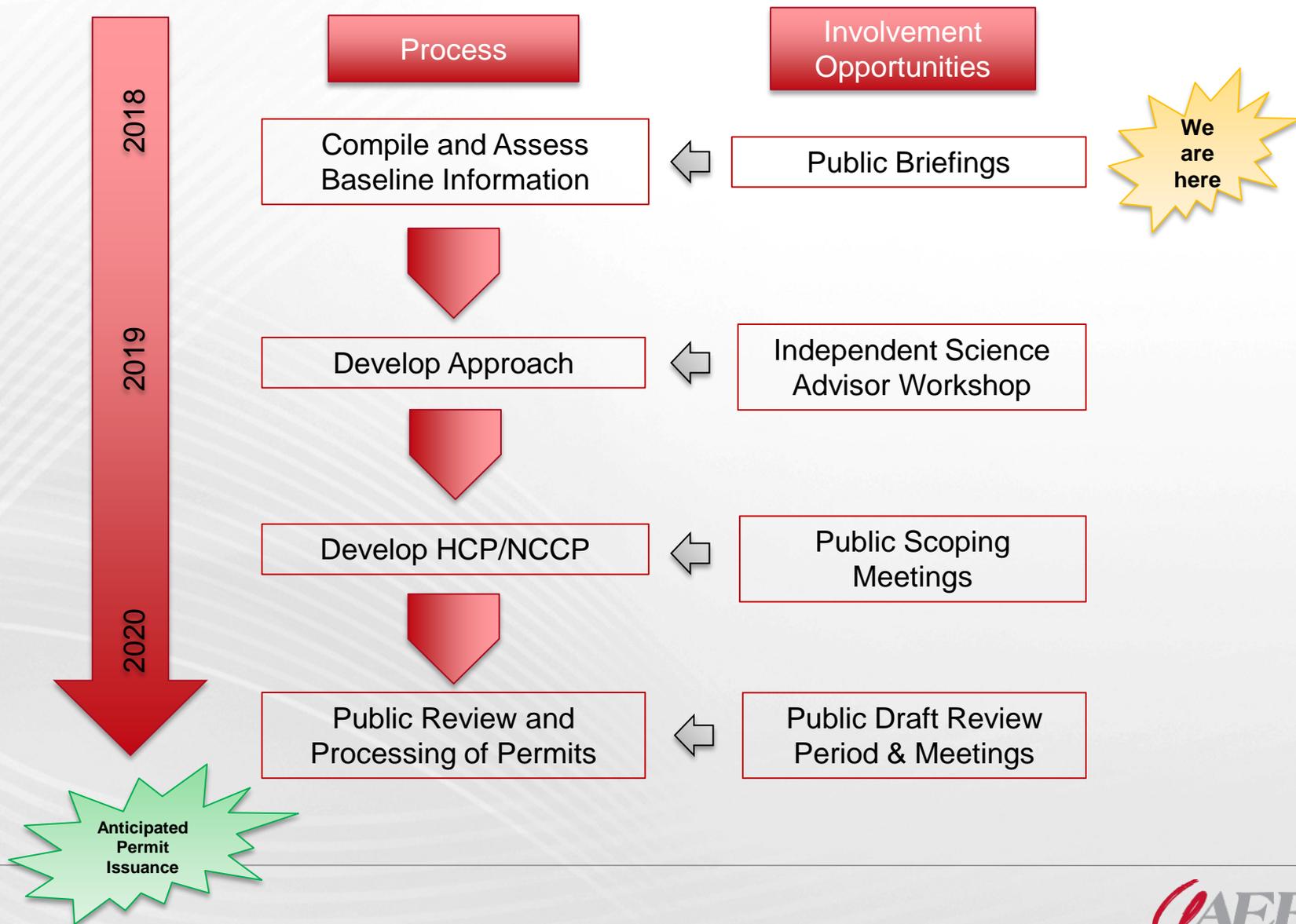
- Federal Endangered Species Act
 - Provides US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) authority to issue incidental take permits (Section 10 of the Act)
 - HCPs are required to meet permit issuance criteria
- California's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
 - NCCPs provide comprehensive management and conservation of species and natural communities
 - Provides California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) authority to issue take permits (CA Fish and Game Code Section 2835)



Regulatory Background

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Any federal agency undertaking a major federal action that is likely to affect the human environment must prepare an environmental assessment
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - CEQA applies to certain activities of state and local public agencies
 - A public agency must comply with CEQA when it undertakes an activity defined by CEQA as a "project"
 - "Project" means a discretionary action undertaken by a public agency which may cause either a direct physical change in the environmental or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment

HCP/NCCP Process and Public Involvement



Public Outreach and Involvement

- Aera is conducting public outreach in the HCP/NCCP plan area
 - The goal of outreach is to:
 - provide information to potential stakeholders
 - provide opportunities for public input throughout plan development
- Project will include formal public review and comment process
 - CEQA/NEPA scoping meetings
 - CEQA/NEPA public comment periods



Independent Science Advisory Process

- The NCCP Act requires that NCCP applicants include a process for independent scientific input
- Independent science advisors will review and provide comment on the science supporting the Plan
- Science Advisors workshop open to the public targeted for spring 2019
- Science advisors issue public report



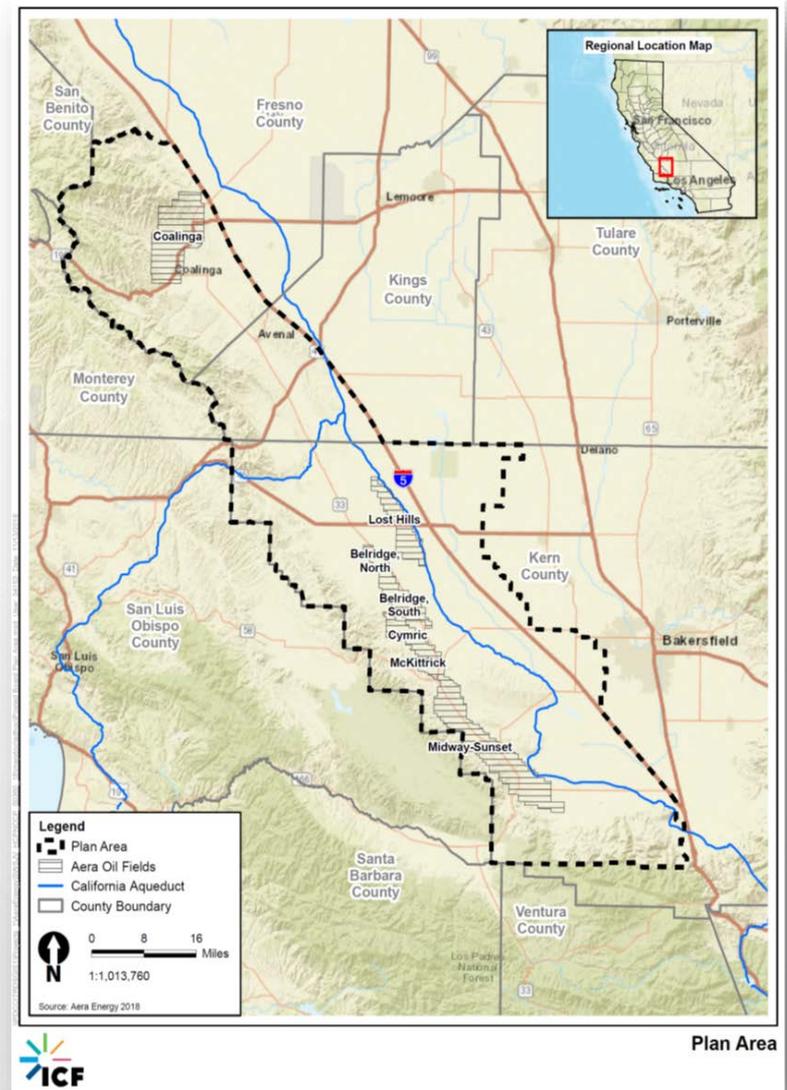
Scope of the HCP/NCCP

- Proposed:
 - Plan area
 - Permit duration
 - Covered activities
 - Covered species
 - Covered natural communities



Proposed Plan Area

- The plan area (1,950,891 acres)
- Includes:
 - Aera's active oils fields
 - Areas where foreseeable development may occur
 - Lands that will be conserved as part of the HCP/NCCP
 - Portions of Kern, Kings, Fresno counties



Proposed Duration of Permits

- The permit duration is the time in which...
 - all covered activities can receive take authorization under the permits
 - all conservation actions must be successfully completed
- Aera is proposing 35-year permit terms to:
 - realize regulatory and economic benefits from the HCP/NCCP
 - fully implement covered activities
 - secure all necessary funding for Plan implementation during the permit term and for implementation of the conservation strategy in perpetuity
 - secure conservation land to mitigate impacts on covered species and provide for conservation of species and natural communities
 - implement an effective program for management, monitoring, and adaptive management

Proposed Covered Activities

- Oil & Gas Development Activities
 - Geophysical Surveys
 - Exploration and Appraisal
 - Construction
 - Drilling
 - Operations & Maintenance
 - Spill Prevention & Waste Management
 - Fuels Reduction
 - Decommissioning & Reclamation Activities



Proposed Covered Activities

- Solar Development Activities
 - Photovoltaic & solar thermal facilities to power oil and gas production activities
- Plan Implementation Activities
 - Avoidance and minimization measures
 - Management and monitoring on conservation lands



Proposed Species Covered Under the HCP/NCCP

- **Plants**

- Bakersfield cactus
- California jewelflower
- Kern mallow
- San Joaquin woolly-threads

- **Reptiles**

- Blunt-nosed leopard lizard

- **Birds**

- Burrowing owl
- Le Conte's thrasher
- Swainson's hawk



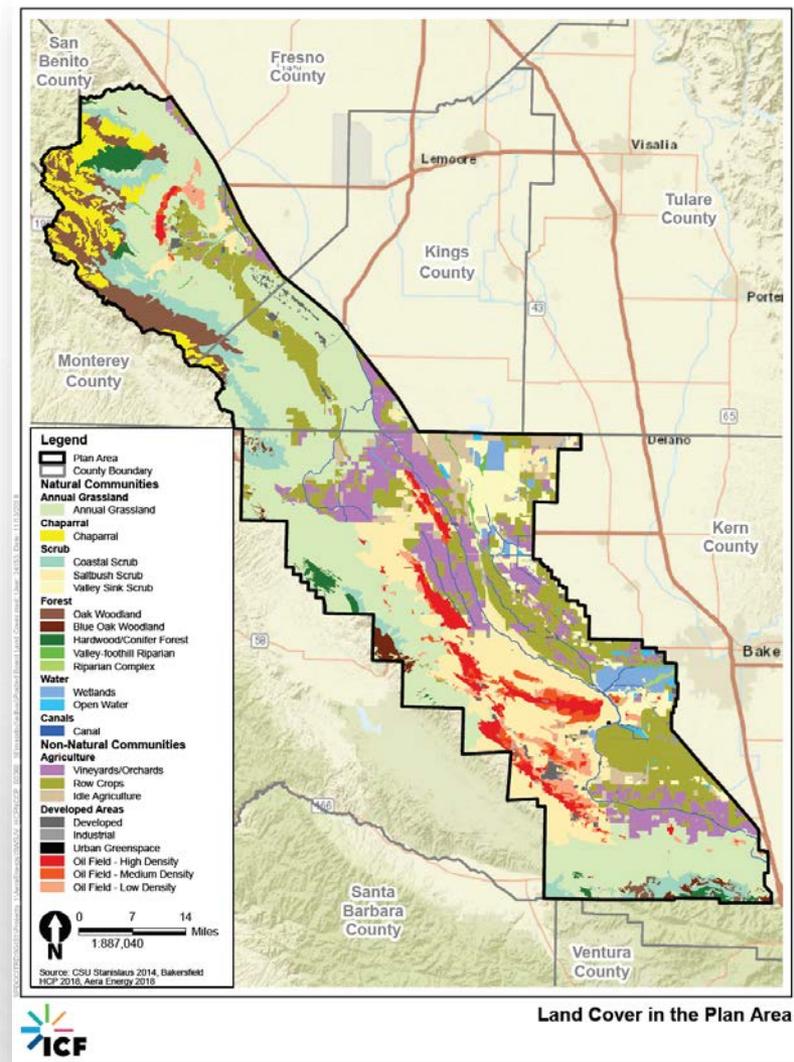
- **Mammals**

- American badger
- Buena Vista Lake shrew
- Giant kangaroo rat
- Tipton kangaroo rat
- San Joaquin antelope squirrel
- San Joaquin kit fox



Natural Communities in Plan Area (acres)

- Annual Grassland (600,000)
- Saltbush Scrub (210,000)
- Coastal Scrub (96,000)
- Oak Woodland (89,000)
- Chaparral (57,000)
- Valley Sink Scrub (54,000)
- Valley-Foothill Riparian (5,000)



Land Cover in the Plan Area

Conservation Strategy Concepts

- Increase Aera's operational flexibility by establishing clear and practical avoidance and minimization measures
- Redirect resources to conservation, management, and monitoring
- Utilize Aera's land holdings in the Valley to conserve significant blocks of natural communities and covered species habitat
- Target research and restoration that result in added value for Aera's conservation strategy and a net benefit for listed species
- Contribute to recovery of upland species and conservation of natural landscapes in the southwest San Joaquin Valley



How to Stay Involved

- Fill out a registration card
- Contact Aera
 - Contact information on handouts
 - Visit Aera's website
- Future Opportunities for Input
 - Independent Science Advisors Workshop
 - CEQA & NEPA processes

Questions?

