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(List of Counsel continued on next page)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT, *et al.*,

Defendants.

) Civ. No. 2:20-cv-00371-DSF-(ASx)

)
)
) **PLAINTIFFS’ NOTICE OF
PENDENCY OF OTHER
ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS**

) **(Local Rule 83-1.4)**

) Filed: January 14, 2020
) Requested Hearing: June 28, 2021
) at 1:30 p.m.
) Judge: Hon. Dale S. Fischer
) Courtroom: 7D
)

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9 *California Environmental Justice Network, Los*
10 *Padres ForestWatch, Patagonia Works, and Sierra*
11 *Club*

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1 Pursuant to Local Rule 83-1.4.1, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity,
2 Central California Environmental Justice Network, Los Padres ForestWatch, National
3 Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Patagonia
4 Works, Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society (collectively “Plaintiffs”) file this
5 notice to inform the Court and other parties that this case is related to a pending civil
6 action filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, *Center for*
7 *Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau of Land Management, et al.*, No.
8 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB (E.D. Cal., filed Mar. 22, 2021), assigned to the
9 Honorable Judge Dale A. Drozd. C.D. Cal. R. 83-1.4.2(a), (b).

10 The plaintiffs in *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau*
11 *of Land Management, et al.*, No. 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB, are the Center for
12 Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth, and Sierra Club, and the defendants are the
13 U.S. Bureau of Land Management (“the Bureau”), Debra Haaland, in her official
14 capacity as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Karen Mouritsen, in
15 her official capacity as California State Director of the Bureau. C.D. Cal. R. 83-
16 1.4.2(c).

17 The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the attorneys for plaintiffs in
18 *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau of Land Management,*
19 *et al.*, No. 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB, are listed here. Counsel for defendants have
20 not yet appeared. C.D. Cal. R. 83-1.4.2(d).

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26 The instant action involves “a material part of the subject matter” pending in
27 *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau of Land Management,*
28 *et al.*, No. 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB. C.D. Cal. R. 83-1.4.2(e). Plaintiffs in the

1 instant action are challenging the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
2 (SEIS) adopted by the Bureau’s Bakersfield Field Office in December 2019, during
3 the initial planning stage of its oil and gas management process. The SEIS supports
4 the Bakersfield Field Office’s 2014 resource management plan, which opened over
5 one million acres of public land and mineral estate across eight counties in
6 California’s southern Central Coast and Central Valley region, including Kern
7 County, to extensive oil and gas leasing and development, including hydraulic
8 fracturing (or “fracking”). Fracking is a risky, environmentally harmful oil and gas
9 stimulation technique whereby large volumes of water, sand, and toxic chemicals are
10 injected down an oil or gas well under pressure great enough to fracture the
11 surrounding rock formation. Plaintiffs brought this suit under the National
12 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and argue that the Bureau’s SEIS failed to respond
13 to extensive public comments, and failed to analyze the impacts of fracking on the
14 diverse and already vulnerable public resources in central California, including air
15 quality, climate, water, and the health and safety of local communities. The case is
16 now in summary judgment briefing.

17 In December 2020, while the challenge to the SEIS evaluating fracking was still
18 pending in this Court, the Bureau proceeded to the second stage of its oil and gas
19 management process and held its first oil and gas lease sale in California in eight
20 years, selling seven parcels totaling approximately 4,133 acres of public land within
21 the Bakersfield Field Office planning area in Kern County. The Bureau completed an
22 environmental assessment (EA) for the lease sale that failed to fully evaluate the
23 impacts of the sale on the important environmental resources and local communities in
24 Kern County, or cure the deficiencies in the agency’s earlier NEPA review in its SEIS
25 for the area. Plaintiffs in *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States*
26 *Bureau of Land Management, et al.*, No. 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB, namely the
27 Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth, and Sierra Club, now challenge
28

1 the lease sale and EA, and argue the Bureau failed to adequately analyze the impacts
2 of the drilling and fracking activity that will proceed under its resource management
3 plan and SEIS, in violation of NEPA. Accordingly, the instant action involves “a
4 material part of the subject matter” pending before the Eastern District in *Center for*
5 *Biological Diversity, et al. v. United States Bureau of Land Management, et al.*, No.
6 1:21-CV-00475-DAD-SAB. C.D. Cal. R. 83-1.4.2(e).

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8 Respectfully submitted,

9 Dated: March 23, 2021

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