New Study Finds Vital County Services, Schools, and Special Districts Rely on Oil and Gas in Kern County

The oil and gas industry plays a vital role in communities throughout Kern County, from providing high-paying jobs to supporting county school districts and services. A recent analysis demonstrates the tremendous economic and fiscal impact the oil and gas industry has specifically on Kern County’s property tax revenue.

In fact, seven of the top ten taxpayers in 2018-19 represented the oil and gas industry and comprised over 15% of the total general taxes due with bills totaling $154.3 million.

The industry contributed more than $197 million in property tax revenue in Kern County during fiscal year 2018–2019.

Top 5 School Districts Receiving Property Tax Revenue from Oil and Gas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Property Tax Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kern High School District</td>
<td>$14,933,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taft Union High School District</td>
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“Particularly in these challenging times, it is critical that our schools have the resources to meet the diverse needs of our students. In addition to jobs and economic opportunity, our local oil and gas industry provides revenue that is essential to keeping our schools operating and funded.”

Mary C. Barlow, Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Kern County Already Facing Declining Revenue

For the January 2021 assessment, the current projection is for a 40% decline in property tax revenue.

To make up that difference, more than 66 new e-commerce processing facilities would have to begin operation in the same fiscal year to replace just that lost revenue of over $24 million to the county general and fire fund alone.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

$103M/yr

The oil and gas industry’s property tax revenue could pay the annual salaries of 2,102 teachers.

COUNTY OF KERN

$80M/yr

$19M to County Fire Fund
That’s enough to pay over 25% of total Kern County firefighter wages.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

$12M/yr

CITIES

$618,157

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The Oil and Gas Industry Drives California’s Economy

JOBS
365,970 Jobs
That’s enough people to fill every NFL Stadium in the state more than 1.5 times.

ECONOMIC OUTPUT
$152.3B
That’s nearly 7.5 times more than the impact of the state’s agricultural exports.

$21.6B
Contributed in local, state, and federal tax revenue to support schools, roads, public safety and other vital services.

San Joaquin Valley

Home to more than 83% of all active wells and accounting for 75% of California’s total crude oil productions.

TOTAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION
$12.5B
That dollar amount is more than the gross domestic product (GDP) of 87 countries around the world.

Source Page 1
A report titled “Kern County Oil and Gas Property Tax Revenue (2018-2019) Analysis: County, Cities, Schools and Special Districts” examined the economic contribution that the oil and gas industry makes to the property tax base in Kern County. The analysis was prepared by The Natelson Dale Group, Inc. on behalf of the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department and Kern County Administrative Office.

Given the longstanding importance of this industry in the local economy, the Kern County Assessor’s Office maintains a separate property tax roll (“Roll 2”) specific to Oil & Gas parcels. The study focuses strictly on Roll 2 assessed valuation and associated annual property tax revenues.

Source Page 2
All of the stats on this page except the qualifying statements (NFL, etc.) are from: “2019 Report Oil & Gas in California: The Industry, Its Economic Contribution and User Industries at Risk.”