



Producing Water and Oranges

Roy Pierucci, Farmer

Farming is my life. It's been my life ever since I've been born, and with Chevron involved with us now, it's made a huge difference.

Richard Chapman, President/CEO, Kern Economic Development Council

Kern County/Bakersfield region is about 100 miles from Los Angeles, and this region produces more oil than any county in the country. Chevron is by far the largest producer of oil in Kern County. Obviously that's wonderful for economic stability, but Chevron contributes in many more ways.

Jeff Hatlen, Senior Petroleum Engineer, Chevron

We're in the middle of the Kern River Field. It's a super-giant oil field here in Kern County. There were over 3.5 billion barrels initially in this field, and 2 billion barrels have been produced over the last 100 years. The oil's thick and viscous. Think molasses. To get more of it out of the ground, we needed a new technology. That became steam flooding. So we've just generated steam in a cogeneration plant. We bring it through pipelines. The steam runs through the ground, heats up the oil, heats up the water, and then brings it to our wells that lift it up from 1,000 feet – nine thousand of these wells, over 20 square miles. For every barrel of oil, we're lifting 10 barrels of water.

Jim Waldron, Hydrogeologist, Chevron

I think of Chevron at Kern River as a water company that skims oil.

Jeff Hatlen

Most oil fields produce water as a byproduct or a waste product. Chevron in the Kern River Field takes that water, conditions it, and brings it into agricultural use.

Jim Waldron

Through the process of gravity separation, the water and oil virtually separate, and then that water goes into huge walnut shell filters, so that we can clean it to go to the Cawelo Water District to be used for agriculture here in the Valley.

David Ansolabehere, General Manager, Cawelo Water District

The sound of that water is music to my ears. The partnership between Chevron and Cawelo is very important, because water is a necessity to us. About 20 million gallons per day of treated Chevron water comes into this clarification pond and then is discharged into our blending reservoir and then distributed out to our farmers.

Roy Pierucci

This is the intake that we receive the water from Chevron. And this is where we get all the millions of gallons needed to raise my crops.

David Ansolabehere

We deliver water to farmers within about 45,000 acres.

Roy Pierucci

I've always felt that we could feed the world if they'd allow us enough water. This 80 acre parcel here of pistachios will use over 100 million gallons of water a year. Every drop of water that we could get from any source is vitally needed. And to have it available all the time is just great.

David Ansolabehere

Chevron is being environmentally conscious, and this is a very beneficial program and it's helped a lot of our farmers, helped our district tremendously.

Roy Pierucci

They do care. Chevron has stepped up to the plate, not just with words, but with actions, and we're really happy they're here.