

KERN COUNTY HISTORY

KERN COUNTY

DIRECTORY OF OFFICES AND SERVICES

AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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<http://www.CaliforniaCity.com>

The purpose of this information guide is to provide County information to the residents of California City. California City is an incorporated City within the jurisdiction of Kern County.

The county seat and county offices are located in Bakersfield, California. The city of California City is located approximately 60 miles to the southeast of the Metropolitan Bakersfield area. There are some smaller branches of these offices located in Mojave. California City has its own branch library.

Historically, Kern County was created in 1866 with the county seat located in the now abandoned mining town of Havilah, California.

In its beginning, Kern County was dominated by mining in the mountains and desert.

Within 10 years the area of the San Joaquin Valley surpassed the mining areas as the economic influence of the county, and the county seat was moved from Havilah to Bakersfield in 1874.

The county has a large agricultural base and is a significant producer of oil, natural gas, hydroelectric power, wind-turbine power, and geothermal power.

As of 2004, Kern remains California's top oil-producing county, with over 85% of the state's 43,000 active oil wells. The county accounts for one-tenth of overall U.S. oil production, and three of the five largest U.S. oil fields are in Kern County.

Kern is also noted for its mineral wealth, including gold, borate, and kernite. The largest

open pit mine in California, which mines borax, is at Boron in Kern County.

The County derives its name from the Kern River which was renamed in honor of Edward M. Kern by General John C. Fremont.

General Fremont's 1845 expedition, of which Kern was employed as a cartographer. Kern mapped areas of the San Joaquin Valley that were considered inhospitable and impassable at the time due to swamps, lakes, tule reeds, and diseases such as malaria.

This was Kern's third expedition to the American West and nearly lost his life in the turbulent waters now known as the Kern River.

Fremont's 1845 expedition crossed Walker Pass. Walker Pass was first discovered in 1834 and is an important pass across the Sierra Nevada as it is one of the few not closed by winter snows. It is now a National Historic Landmark.

In 1848, the Kern area was ceded to the United States as part of the transfer of California, Nevada, and Utah and other lands under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

KERN COUNTY DIRECTORY OF OFFICES AND SERVICES

- Housing Authority of Kern County
(Section 8 Housing)
HACK 601 -24th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 631-8500
Fax: (661) 631-9500
*Apply in person.

- Kern Council of Government
1401-19th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 861-2191
- Kern County Aging and Adult Services
5357 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 868-1000
Toll Free: (800) 510-2020
- Kern County Agriculture and Measurement Standards Department
1001 S Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 868-6300
Water analysis
- Kern Co. Air Pollution Control District
2700 M Street, Suite 302
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 862-5250
- Kern Co. Air Pollution Control District - Mojave Branch
1775 Highway 58
Mojave, CA 93501
Telephone: (661) 824-7085
- Kern County Assessor
1115 Truxtun Avenue, First Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 868-3485
assessor@co.kern.ca.us
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F (except holidays)
- Kern Co. Career Service Cntr - Mojave
2300 Highway 58
Mojave, CA 93501
Telephone: (661) 824-7800
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F (except holidays)
- Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue, First Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639
Marriage License Information
Fictitious Business Names Information
Telephone: (661) 868-3588
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F (except holidays)
Official website: <http://www.co.kern.ca.us>
- Kern County Elections
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 868-3590
- Kern Co. Environmental Health Services
2700 M Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 862-8700
- Kern County Fair Housing
2700 M Street, Suite 250
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Other Areas Telephone: (661) 862-5299
Complaint of Illegal Housing Discrimination
- Kern County Human Service Dept.
Social Services Division
100 East California Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 631-6005
- Kern County Human Service Dept.
Social Services Division - Mojave Branch
2340 Highway 58
Mojave, CA 93501
Telephone: (661) 824-7500
- Kern Co. Library - California City Branch
9507 California City Boulevard
- *Job listing updated daily.
- California City, CA 93505
Telephone: (760) 373-4757
- Kern County Recorder
Hall of Records
1655 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Birth and Death Records
Telephone: (661) 868-6400
response@co.kern.ca.us
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F (except holidays)
- Kern County Regional Transit
2700 M Street, Suite 400
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 862-8850
- Kern Co. Resource Mngmnt Agency
2700 M Street, Suite 350
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 862-8800
- Kern County Superior Court
East Kern Division - Mojave Jury Duty
1773 Highway 58
Mojave, CA 93501
Telephone: (661) 824-7100
- Kern County Treasurer - Tax Collector
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 2nd Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639
Telephone: (661) 868-3490
Toll Free: (800) 552-KERN (5376)
Fax: (661) 868-3409
website: <http://www.kcttc.co.kern.ca.us>
- Kern County Waste Management Dept.
2700 M Street, Suite 500
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Telephone: (661) 862-8900
Fax: (661) 862-8901
website: waste@co.kern.ca.us