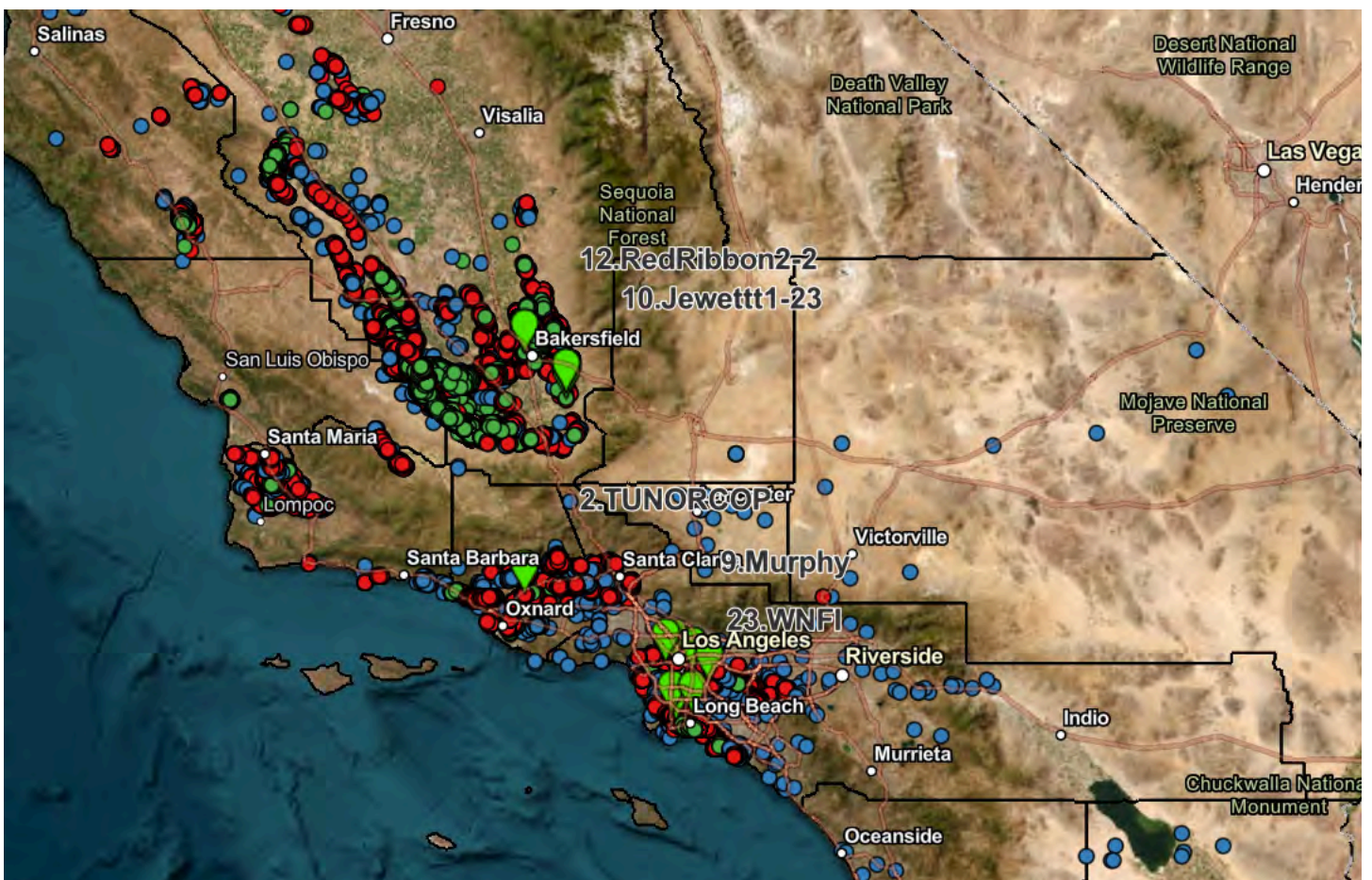


Toxic Emissions Filmed at Leaking Oil and Gas Infrastructure in California

February 24, 2026



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Toxic Emissions Filmed at Leaking Oil and Gas Infrastructure in California

Using a FLIR-Teledyne GF320 optical gas imaging camera, FracTracker spent seven days (August 1-7, 2022) inspecting

oil and gas infrastructure in Los Angeles County, Kern County, and Ventura County. The inspections of drilling sites and production facilities prioritized idle well-sites. In addition to idle wells, the field trip focused on neighborhood and urban drilling sites, which present the highest risk of exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) for frontline communities.

This story map presents a selection of wells and production facilities where emissions were documented. In total, FracTracker filed 68 air quality complaints with local air districts: 41 to the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 23 to the San Joaquin Valley air pollution control district, and four to the Ventura County air pollution control district. Inspectors from each district are actively investigating the complaints.



LA Unit Broadway Drill Site

This urban drill site, operated by Nasco Petroleum LLC, is located on Broadway in downtown Los Angeles. The artfully painted and graffitied 12 foot walls of the facility allow it to blend into the urban landscape. Behind the walls are 29 operational oil wells along with the tanks and support infrastructure to keep them pumping.

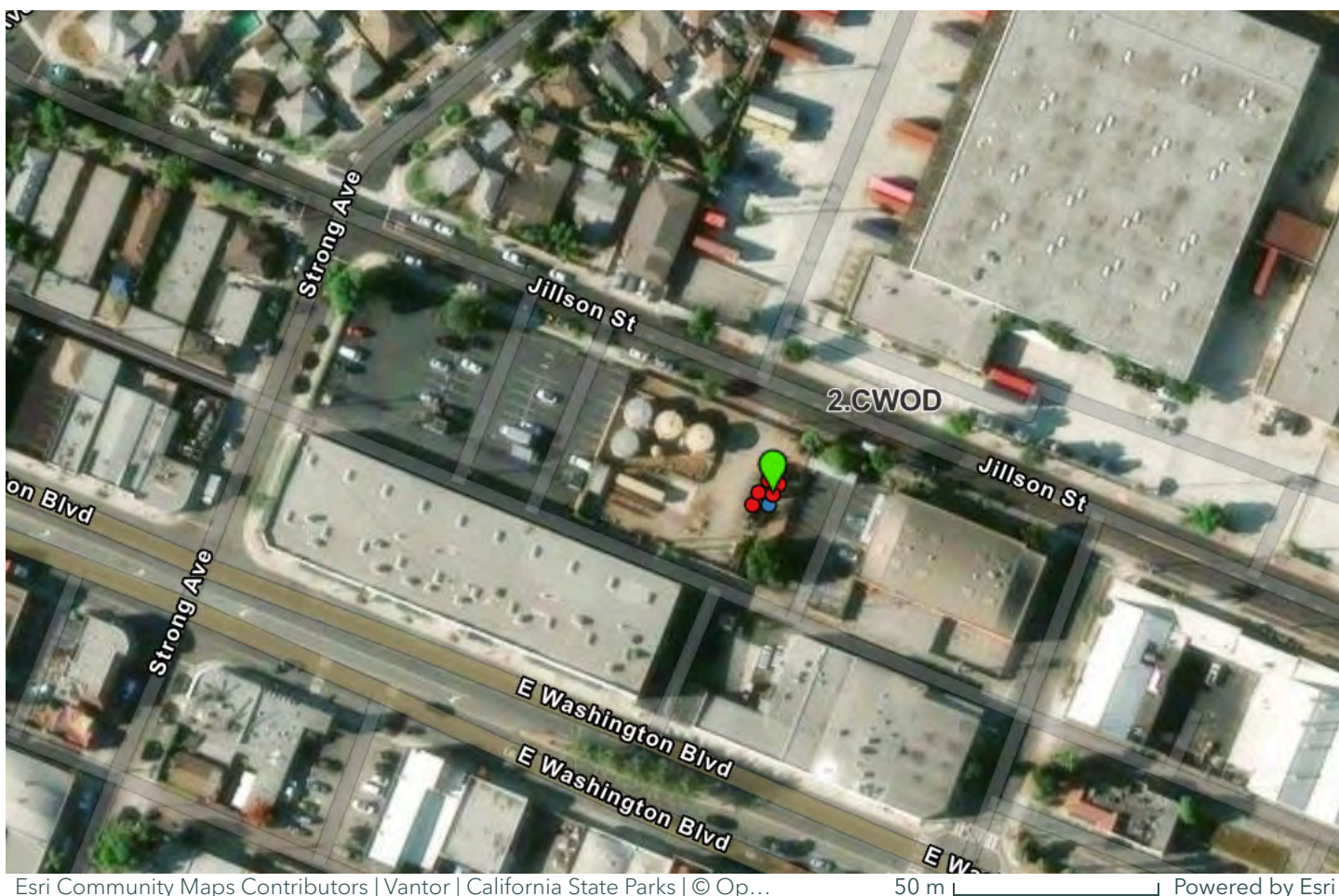
FracTracker filmed uncontrolled emissions leaking from the tanks and piping infrastructure in the western corner of the facility. The video below uses infrared optical gas imaging technology to detect and film the methane and VOC emissions invisible to the naked eye. The emissions can be seen when the video below shifts to greyscale. As the resolution in the video decreases, the sensitivity increases, and the full plume can be seen.



1LAUnit
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C.W.O.D. East LA Drill Site

FracTracker located multiple leaks from this drill site located in East Los Angeles. This drilling site operated by Four Teams Oil Production in the Bandini Field is directly across the street from homes and businesses. There are 6 oil wells; five active and one idle, as well as four tanks.

FracTracker filmed uncontrolled emissions from the vents on the top of wash and stock tanks. This is not the first time FracTracker has filmed emissions from these tanks. Previous field trips in 2018 showed the same emissions and it is likely that the neighboring community has been exposed to these emissions daily since the facility started producing.

FracTracker also documented a second source of uncontrolled emissions. The source looked to be on or near the idle

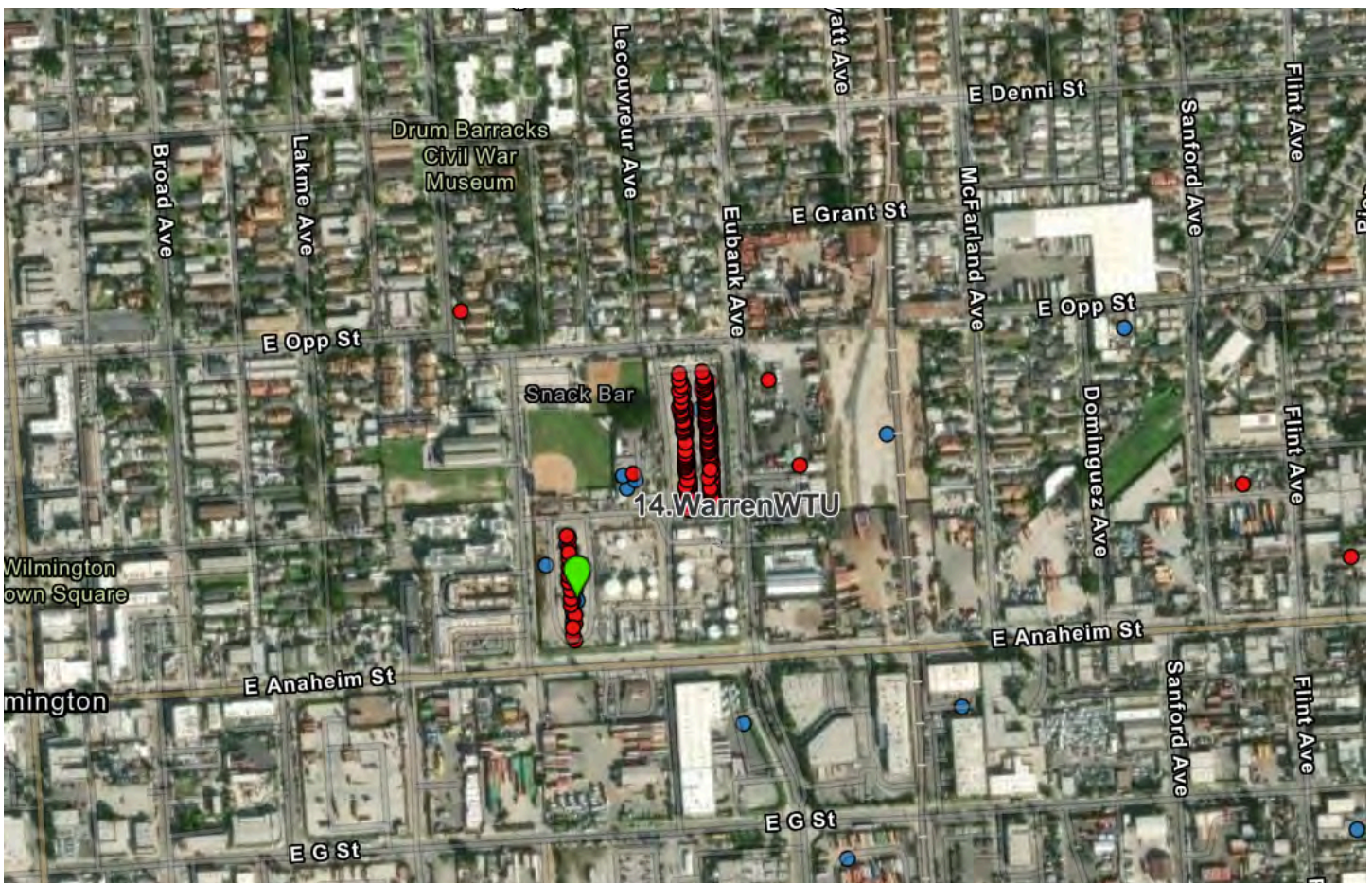
wellhead on the drill site, but the fenceline of the facility was too far from the source to confirm the exact location. These emissions are shown in the video below.



2CWOD
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Warren WTU Facility

This large facility is located in Wilmington and operated by Warren E&P, Inc. This facility is a collection and processing site for many of Warren's drilling and production operations

in the Wilmington field. There are over 250 operational oil wells within the walls of this facility.

FracTracker filmed VOC and methane emissions within the exhaust plumes of large combustors within the facility. Oil production facilities are required to have vapor recovery systems that capture and transport hydrocarbon gasses and vapors for disposal. This site disposes of the hydrocarbons by combusting them. If the combustors are not operating properly and burning efficiently, VOCs can escape combustion and remain in the exhaust. Air districts have not required oil production facilities to test the exhaust and confirm complete destruction of the toxic and carcinogenic compounds. The video below shows the plume of exhaust traveling over the fenceline of the facility and into the neighboring community.



14 WarrenWTU
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Dormax Lease in Signal Hill

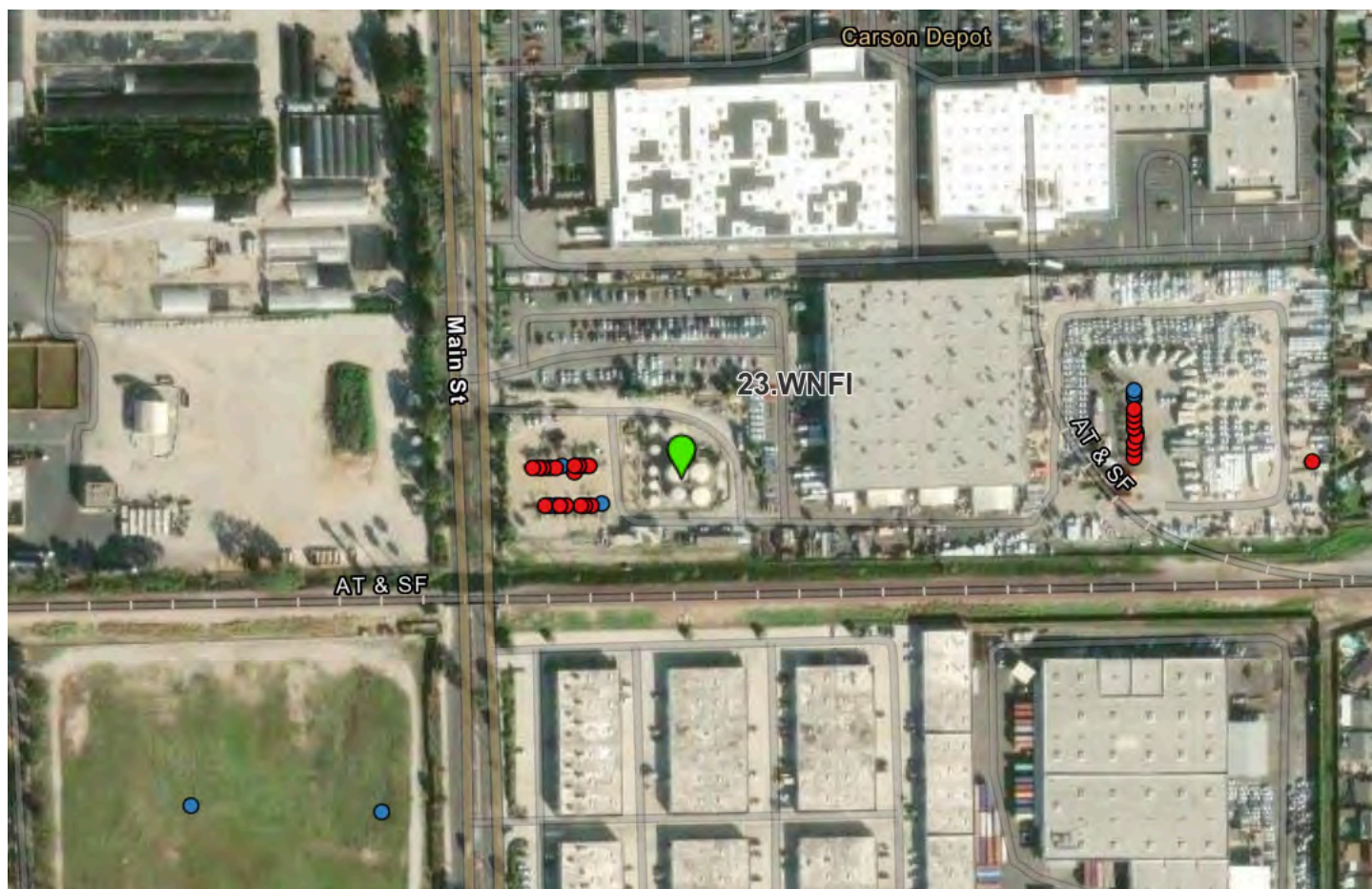
FracTracker filmed high concentrations of VOC's and methane emissions from the tanks at this production site in Signal Hill. The tanks at this site service the neighboring active wells, collecting production fluids and separating brine from the crude oil that gets stored in the stock tank.

The emissions are shown billowing from a tank vent at the drill site. The plume of the emissions clearly travel from the tank over the fenceline of the facility towards the windows of the neighboring apartments just tens of feet away.

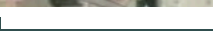
This site was inspected by the air district and inspectors issued the operator a notice of violation for the uncontrolled emissions.



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E&B Resources WNF-I Collection Facility

This facility with very large tanks is located between West Carson and Wilmington in Los Angeles. There are 21 operational wells on this site with an even mix of idle and active statuses.

FracTracker discovered a large plume of emissions discharged from a vent on one of the large tanks which was filmed dispersing over the fence line of the facility into the

neighboring communities. FracTracker has filmed and documented this source source of emissions during previous field trips as well.



23 WNFI E&BNatRes
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Santa Fe Springs Fulton Lease

This drilling site is located in the business district of Santa Fe Springs, next to a restaurant and several office buildings, and within 2,000 feet of two schools. The facility houses five wells, several tanks and other production equipment. The majority

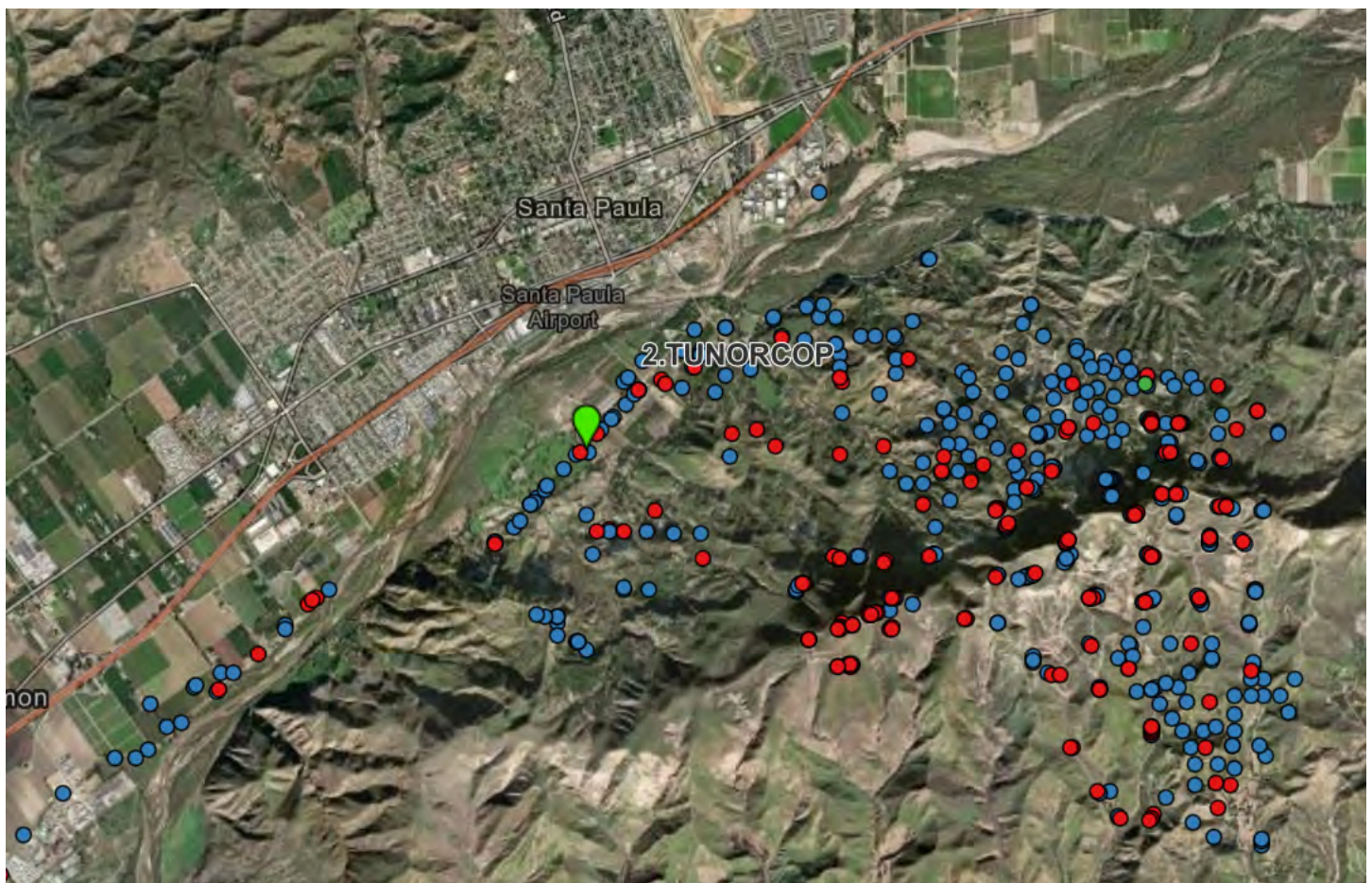
of the wells at the site were idle, while one was still listed as active. The tanks looked empty at the time of inspection, but could still be in service.

FracTracker filmed a constant plume of emissions from an unlit flare on this site. Flares are unusual in Los Angeles, as they are typically a significant source of sound pollution, as well as air pollution when they are not operating efficiently. This particular flare was not operating at all. The stream of VOCs and methane meant for combustion was instead just vented from the smokestack.

3FultonLease
FracTrackerVideos



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CalNRG T-U Norcop Tank Farm in Santa Paula

This large tank farm is located in the city of Santa Paula, just east of Ventura. FracTracker spent an afternoon in and around Ventura inspecting drilling sites and production infrastructure. Access to facilities in this region is difficult due to private roads in the Topatopa mountains, and tall setback fences where the Ventura oil field transects the city of Ventura.

Even at a distance, FracTracker was able to film the plumes of emissions streaming from multiple locations on this tank farm. The video shows uncontrolled emissions from the top of the tanks in a tank setting closest to the road, possibly from a vent, and another leak from pipelines connecting to a separate tank setting farther from the road.



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Knowles Lease in Arvin, CA

Arvin residents and community advocates have worked tirelessly to protect to the environmental health of their city. The small city was the first in California to pass a setback zoning ordinance blocking the expansion of new drilling sites inside or near residential and commercial parcels within the city limits.

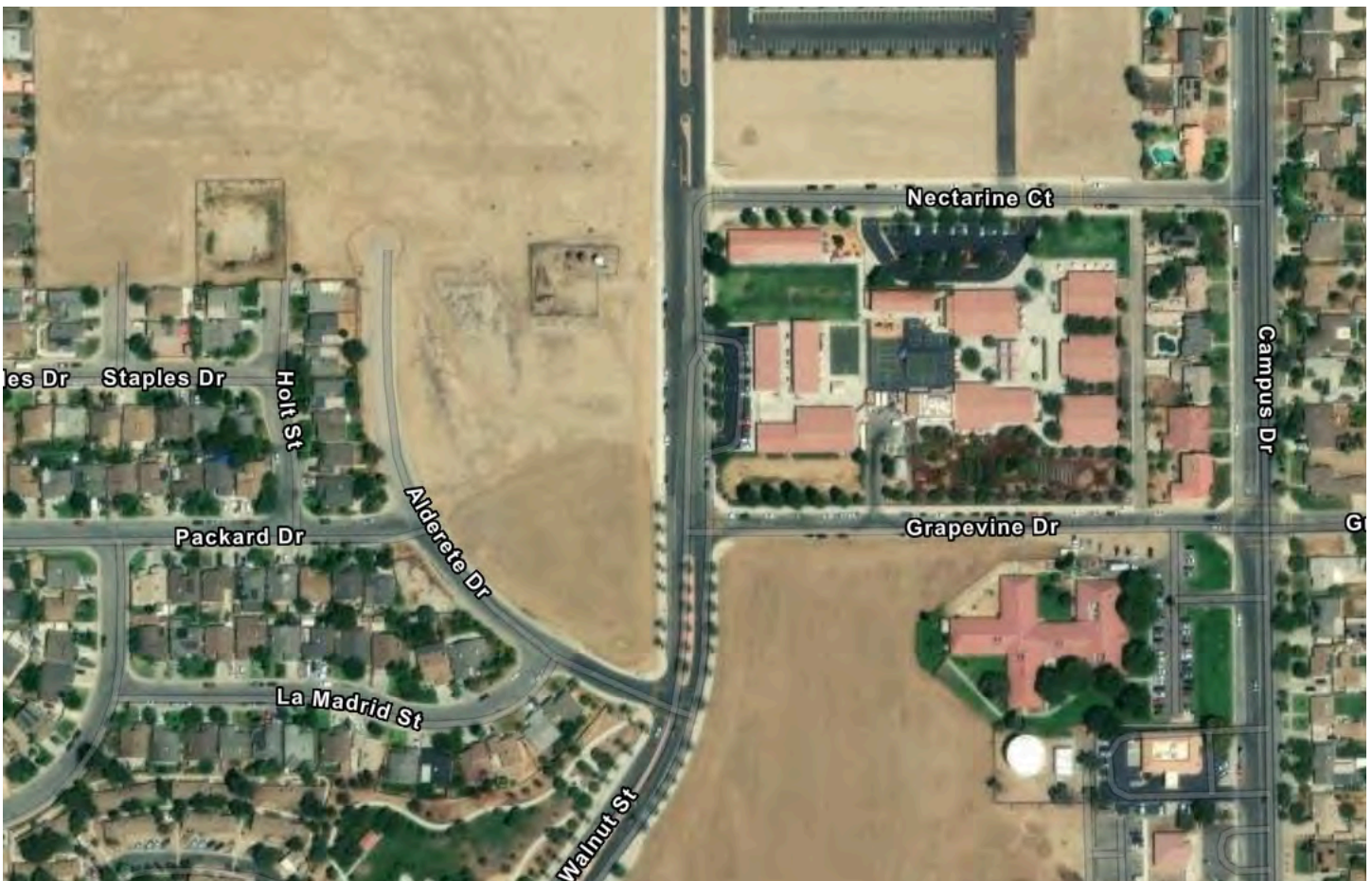
This drill site has multiple tanks without a vapor recovery system, as required by CARB regulations. As a result FracTracker filmed uncontrolled emissions released from the vents on these tanks.

8 Knowles

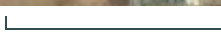
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Jewett 1-23 Lease at Arvin's Grimmway Academy

This drill site is just 140 feet from the schoolyard of the Grimmway/Grow Academy, an elementary school in Arvin, as

well as under 1,000 feet from the middle and high schools. FracTracker has filmed emissions at this site multiple times on previous field trips, and numerous complaints have resulted in multiple violations at this site.

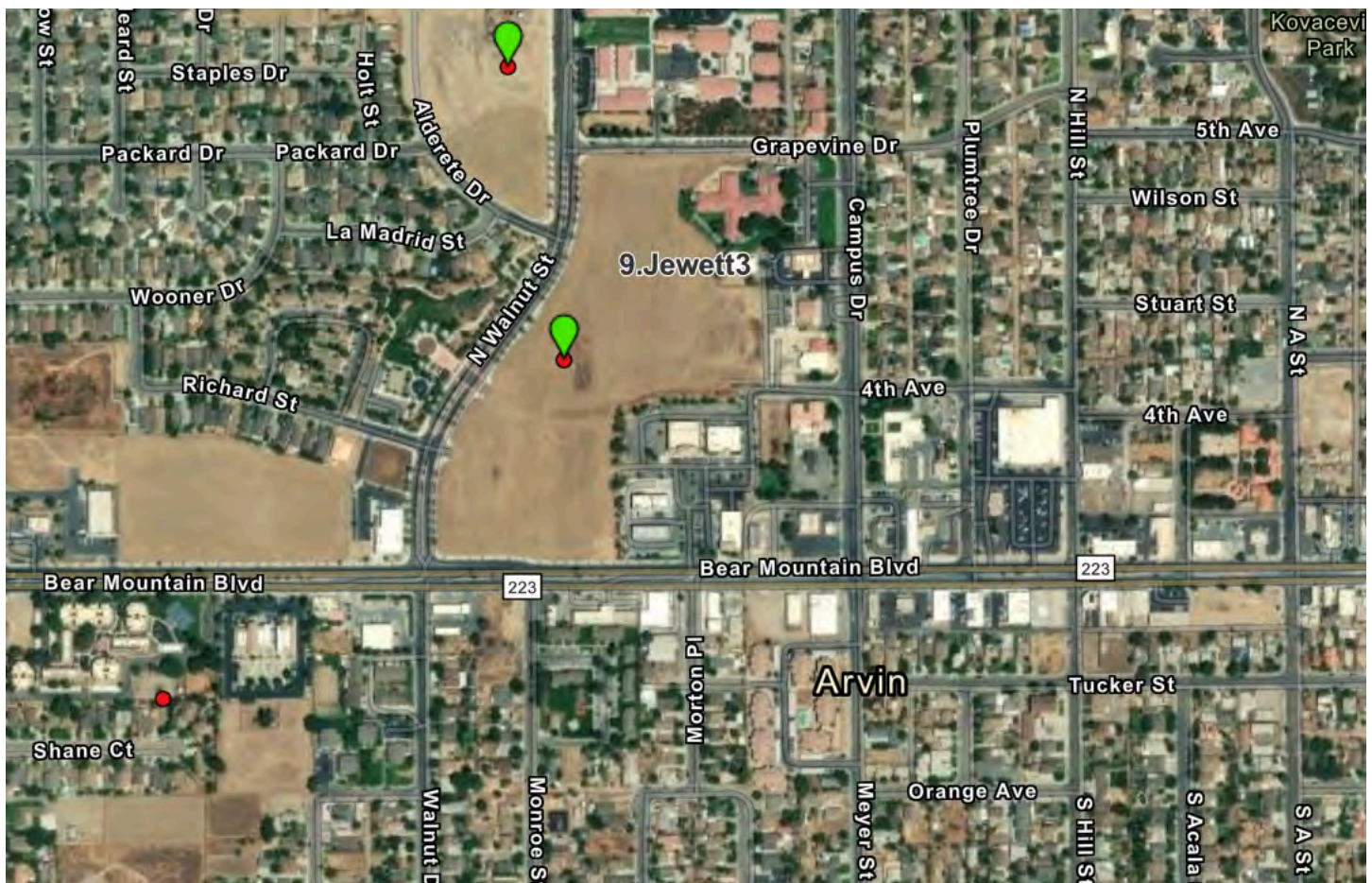
Again, FracTracker has filmed a new leak at this oil well. This time the leak is directly on the wellhead. Even though the well is marginally producing, the operators refuse to plug this well, and instead it has changed hands and is now operated by Sequoia Exploration LLC. This site is a repeat offender, and children are continuously being exposed to toxic chemicals as a result. Regulators must shut this site down and require it to be plugged.

10 Jetwett1 23

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Jewett 3 Well in Arvin, CA

Just to the south of the Jewett 1-23 oil well is the leaking Jewett 3 oil well. FracTracker also documented leaks from the infrastructure and pipes attached to this wellhead. Like the other Jewett well, this oil well is also located directly next to the Grimmway elementary school, and is also located in Arvin's Las Palmas city park.

Jewett3

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Red Ribbon Oil Wells in the Fruitvale Field in Bakersfield

FracTracker also filmed leaks at two idle wells in the business district of Bakersfield. The leaking wells were drilled in the Fruitvale field and operated by Sunray Petroleum, Inc.

In May of 2022 CalGEM discovered 49 leaking idle wells in Bakersfield. Six of those leaking wells were operated by the same company, Sunray Petroleum, Inc.. In addition, 22 of the leaking wells discovered by CalGEM were also in the Fruitvale field.

RedRibbon2 2

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RedRibbon2 1

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