



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**A BOOST FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN KERN COUNTY**

*Aera Energy donates \$15,000 to help The Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity expand services to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and their allies in Kern County*

**Bakersfield, Calif.** – The Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity is set to get a boost from Aera Energy to further expand mental health, counseling and therapy services it provides to the two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual (2SLGBTQIA+) community and their allies in Kern County. Aera Energy will present the Center with a \$15,000 donation at a check presentation ceremony on Tuesday, May 7 at 11:30 a.m. at The Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, 902 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Bakersfield.

The donation will help the Center sustain and expand the critical mental health services, including individual counseling, group therapy, and other individual and group mental health services for Kern County residents who are often unable to access these resources outside of the Center. In 2023, the Center's mental health services team provided support to 395 individuals, client advocates worked with 741 individuals, and staff hosted 103 community workshops. The donation from Aera will help the Center increase staffing to keep up with the continuously increasing demand for services.

Aera is also committed to helping strengthen and enhance the communities where our employees work, live and raise their own families. “Aera understands the importance of the lifesaving resources and services the center provides to the queer community and their allies in Kern County,” said Dylan Chennault, an Aera production engineer who also serves as a board member for the Center. “This generous donation will ensure the center continues to be a beacon of hope and support for those who need it most, providing yet another example of the care for Kern County that Aera shows through action.”

**WHAT:** Aera Energy Check Presentation Ceremony

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, 902 18<sup>th</sup> Street, CA 93301

**WHO:** Representatives from Aera Energy and the center will be available for interviews.

**VISUALS:** Aera representatives will present a giant check to center officials at the event.

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**About Aera Energy**

*About Aera Energy LLC Aera Energy is a California company and a long-time leader in the energy industry accounting for nearly 25 percent of the state’s oil production. Formed in 1997, it is headquartered in Bakersfield and known for excellent safety and environmental performance, innovative business practices, application of cutting-edge technology, a dynamic company culture and being a valued community partner. With operations centered in the San Joaquin Valley, much of Aera’s oil production comes from Kern County. Aera also has active oil field operations in Ventura, Monterey and Fresno counties.*