

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment - Group 1



**From:** Leah Yananton <lm.yananton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 7:11 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Additional Public comment: Santa Barbara, Sable Offshore Corporation

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Chair. and Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the transfer of offshore oil drilling permits from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corporation, which will be considered at your meeting on Tuesday, February 25th. The California coast, and particularly Santa Barbara County, has suffered enough from the disastrous consequences of offshore drilling. Approving this transfer would be a grave mistake, placing our environment, economy, and community at unacceptable risk.

I recently enjoyed a beach day in Santa Barbara and went swimming in the ocean. I came out with my feet completely covered in tar. Some people will refuse to face that it is from a previous spill, or a current leak, because it is easier to stay in denial of the horrors that drilling oil brings upon our pristine ocean and beaches.

Almost a decade ago, we witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by a corroded pipeline on the Gaviota Coast. That rupture released over 140,000 gallons of crude oil, contaminating over 150 miles of coastline, killing thousands of marine animals, and disrupting tourism and fishing industries. Today, a Texas-based company with no proven track record, Sable Offshore Corporation, seeks to restart these same hazardous operations without an updated environmental review. Given the age and degradation of the infrastructure, the likelihood of stress corrosion cracking, weld failures, and improper cathodic protection increases significantly, exacerbating the potential for another catastrophe.

Your responsibility is not only to assess whether Sable has the financial and operational capacity to run these facilities but also to determine whether approving this transfer aligns with the best interests of Santa Barbara County residents. Sable has failed to demonstrate it can afford to remediate another oil spill, nor has it proven it can be trusted to manage these facilities responsibly. In contrast, the risks of approving this permit transfer are clear and well-documented.

The Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipelines pose an imminent danger to our community, especially given their aging infrastructure and susceptibility to mechanical failures, external corrosion, and seismic vulnerabilities. Allowing Sable to operate these facilities without rigorous scrutiny would prioritize corporate profits over public safety, our environment, and the well-being of future generations.

Santa Barbara County has long been a leader in environmental protection. This is our opportunity to uphold that legacy. I urge you to reject the permit transfer and take decisive action to phase out offshore oil drilling for good. Our coast deserves better. Our children deserve a better future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leah Yananton

Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Lily Summer <lskriege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:18 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Opposition to Promosed Permit transfer

**Caution:** This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Lily ZoBell Kriege, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

Instead of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical step in that direction.

We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Lily ZoBell Kriege

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Olivia J Mathai <olivia\_mathai@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:18 PM  
**To:** sbcob

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Olivia, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

Instead of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical step in that direction.

We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

**Olivia Mathai**

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** Jordin Morrow <jordinkmorrow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:18 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Oil Drilling

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Jordin Morrow, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

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We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

**Jordin Morrow**

Blue Water Task Force

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter

[jordinkmorrow@gmail.com](mailto:jordinkmorrow@gmail.com)

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** Lucy Catherine Grace McAdams <lucymcadams@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Deny Sable's Acquisition

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Lucy McAdams and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

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We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

**Lucy McAdams**

**Stewardship Committee Lead**

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter



**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** Audrey Ann Pollack <audrey\_pollack@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:19 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Please Oppose the Permit Transfer

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Audrey Pollack, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

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We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

**Audrey Pollack**

**Blue Water Task Force Member**

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Charlotte Kaye Gerner <cgerner@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:20 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Prevent Offshore Drilling

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution:** This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Charlotte Gerner, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

Instead of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical step in that direction.

We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Charlotte Gerner

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter

**(415)450-8302**

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** hazel <hazelheckes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:20 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Don't Enable Sable

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Hazel Heckes, and I am writing on behalf of the **UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation** to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. I am a Santa Barbara local. We urge you to **deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

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We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter

Hazel Heckes

(805) 722 9322

[Hazelheckes@gmail.com](mailto:Hazelheckes@gmail.com)

**Katherine Douglas**

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**From:** Sydney <sydneybarnes2024@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:21 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** ExxonMobil Transfer

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear

Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My

name is Sydney Barnes, and I am writing on behalf of the UC

**Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation**

to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to

**deny this**

**transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.**

As

students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has

already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

Instead

of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical

step in that direction.

We

stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank

you for your time and consideration.

Best

regards,

Sydney

Barnes

Surfrider

UC Berkeley Chapter



## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Mr. Loaf's Alaskan Cousin <mehmet.b.hazirbaba@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:37 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Opposition to Permit Transfer From ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

My name is Mehmet Hazirbaba, and I am writing on behalf of the UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline.

As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources.

Instead of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical step in that direction.

We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Mehmet Hazirbaba

Media Lead and Photographer

Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Dino Ise0 <dinojise@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:43 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Don't enable sable

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Caution:** This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors, My name is Dino Ise, and I am writing on behalf of the UC Berkeley chapter of Surfrider Foundation to express our strong opposition to the proposed permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corp. We urge you to deny this transfer and prevent the resumption of offshore oil drilling along our coastline. As students deeply committed to environmental sustainability, we recognize the significant risks that continued offshore drilling poses to our marine ecosystems, local communities, and climate future. The history of oil spills off the Santa Barbara coast has already demonstrated the devastating consequences of fossil fuel extraction, and approving this transfer would extend our dependence on outdated and dangerous energy sources. Instead of enabling Sable to revive offshore drilling, we urge the County to prioritize renewable energy development and coastal protection. Santa Barbara has the opportunity to lead in California's transition away from fossil fuels, and this decision is a critical step in that direction. We stand in solidarity with Surfrider's "Don't Enable Sable" campaign and call on you to reject the permit transfer for the sake of our environment, our economy, and future generations. Thank you for your time and consideration. Best regards, Dino Ise Surfrider UC Berkeley Chapter.

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Jessica Copeland <jessicacopeland@ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:52 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Deny the permit transfer from ExxonMobil to Sable

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed restart of the Los Flores Pipeline (CA-324 and CA-325). This project presents unacceptable risks to public safety, the environment, and the regional economy. It also contradicts the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and the California Coastal Act (CCA), which aim to protect sensitive coastal resources and promote climate resilience [1][9].

The 2015 Refugio Beach Oil Spill is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with restarting the Los Flores Pipeline. This catastrophic spill, caused by a rupture in Plains All-American Pipeline Line 901, released 450,000 gallons of crude oil into the environment, contaminating 1,500 acres of shoreline habitat and 2,200 acres of subtidal ecosystems [3]. Sensitive habitats, including kelp forests, eelgrass beds, rocky intertidal zones, and sandy beaches, were severely impacted. The harm extended beyond habitat destruction, with devastating consequences for wildlife: 558 birds, 156 pinnipeds, and 76 cetaceans were killed or injured. Marine plants, invertebrates, and fish populations were similarly affected, causing widespread ecological disruptions [3].

The economic consequences of the spill were just as severe. Beach closures during peak tourism seasons resulted in over 140,000 lost recreational user days, eliminating opportunities for activities such as camping, swimming, fishing, and wildlife viewing. These closures, occurring just before Memorial Day weekend, dealt a significant blow to local businesses that depend on coastal tourism, particularly in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties. The total economic cost of recreational and shoreline use losses exceeded \$4.47 million. The University of California's Coal Oil Point Reserve was also deeply affected, losing critical opportunities for research, education, and outreach [3]. Cleanup costs surpassed \$750 million, imposing an immense financial burden on the region and highlighting the long-term consequences of oil spills [12].

Despite these lessons, Sable Offshore Corp., the current operator of the Los Flores Pipeline, plans to resume operations without addressing the systemic issues that caused the spill. The failure of Line 901 was attributed to external corrosion that compromised the pipeline wall. This corrosion was exacerbated by inadequate protective coatings, insulation systems, and a failed cathodic protection (CP) system [12]. In-line inspections underestimated the severity of corrosion by up to 40%, leaving critical vulnerabilities unaddressed. Furthermore, operational and procedural failures, such as poorly configured SCADA alarms and delayed emergency responses, exacerbated the impacts of the spill [12].

Santa Barbara County's risk assessment has projected that restarting the Los Flores Pipeline could result in oil spills annually, with a major rupture occurring every four years [6]. Such projections are based on the pipeline's reliance on aging, corroded infrastructure that remains vulnerable to failure. Restarting operations without significant upgrades would expose the region to continuous environmental and economic risks.

Sable Offshore Corp.'s financial instability further compounds these dangers. The company operates with a \$426 million deficit and only \$112 million in cash, leaving it financially incapable of addressing a worst-case scenario spill. Its proposed financial guarantees, including insurance coverage, fall woefully

short of covering the costs of cleanup, restoration, and compensation in the event of a disaster. California taxpayers would likely bear the burden of these costs, a scenario that is both unjust and avoidable [6].

Moreover, Sable has demonstrated a pattern of regulatory noncompliance that raises serious concerns about its ability to operate responsibly. Despite being issued a violation notice by the California Coastal Commission, the company continued unpermitted construction activities on the pipeline, including safety upgrades [1, 14]. These actions reflect a disregard for regulatory safeguards and cast doubt on Sable's commitment to adhering to legal requirements.

Restarting the pipeline also conflicts with California's broader climate goals. The project is projected to emit 18,984 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, exceeding state greenhouse gas thresholds and undermining efforts to combat climate change [8]. Offshore drilling platforms in the region are already aging and ill-equipped to handle the operational pressures of modern extraction, further compounding the risks of relying on fossil fuel infrastructure [4]. Continuing to invest in outdated fossil fuel projects delays California's transition to renewable energy and perpetuates the environmental harm caused by oil production and transportation.

Public health and safety are also at significant risk. The pipeline's compromised integrity, combined with the lack of effective cathodic protection systems, increases the likelihood of hazardous spills. Such spills could result in fires, toxic exposure, and contamination of drinking water supplies, threatening the well-being of coastal communities [6, 10]. These risks are not hypothetical but inevitable given the pipeline's history and the operator's inability to address its vulnerabilities.

The procedural failures surrounding this proposal further exacerbate these concerns. The California Office of the State Fire Marshal has failed to provide adequate opportunities for public input, violating the California Environmental Quality Act. Granting a waiver for this project without addressing these procedural deficiencies erodes public trust in the regulatory process and sets a dangerous precedent for prioritizing industrial interests over environmental protection and community well-being [6].

The environmental, economic, and safety risks associated with restarting the Los Flores Pipeline are further compounded by its impacts on cultural resources and environmental justice. Offshore oil production in the region contributes to the erosion of cultural and historical resources. Vulnerable coastal communities disproportionately bear the brunt of oil spills, facing increased threats to their livelihoods, health, and access to natural resources. Restarting the pipeline perpetuates these inequities, undermining California's commitment to protecting its most at-risk populations and ensuring environmental justice [8].

The catastrophic failure of Line 901 in 2015 revealed systemic deficiencies in pipeline management that remain unresolved. External corrosion, inadequate cathodic protection systems, and delayed emergency responses are just a few of the issues that contributed to the spill. These failures, combined with the operator's financial and operational inadequacies, make the restart of the Los Flores Pipeline an unjustifiable risk.

I urge the California Coastal Commission to reject the proposed restart of the Los Flores Pipeline and instead prioritize long-term solutions that align with California's environmental values and climate leadership.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Jessica Copeland

[jessicacopeland@ucsb.edu](mailto:jessicacopeland@ucsb.edu)