

Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

LATE
DIST

#2

From: Ted Morton <ted@sbck.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 11:45 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's Public Comment on Proposed Valve Project - Uphold Planning Commission's denial

Importance: High

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 Board of Supervisors:

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper submits the following comments regarding **Departmental Agenda Item 2** of the August 22, 2023 County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is a conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. We work in the watersheds and along the coastlines from Point Conception to the Ventura River, and in the waters out to the northern Channel Islands.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to **uphold the Planning Commission's denial of the proposed valve project.**

The proposed project would install valves on corroded pipelines that have been shut down since the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill. The oil spill on the Gaviota Coast spread along 150 miles of coastline. The spill killed more than 300 marine mammals and seabirds. The spill closed fisheries. The spill shut down beaches, state parks, and campgrounds. The spill damaged important coastal habitats. We should do everything we can to prevent another oil spill disaster along our sensitive coastline.

Resuming the use of this pipeline would create risks of future spills and damage to sensitive marine and coastal ecosystems, cultural resources, public recreational areas, fisheries, and local businesses due to the significant corrosion and weakening of pipeline walls.

The Planning Commission held two public hearings on this project and ultimately determined that the approval of the valve project is detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare due to an elevated risk of an oil spill.

Uphold the Planning Commission's decision.

Thank you for taking and considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Morton, Executive Director

Ted Morton
Executive Director
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
714 Bond Ave
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
805.563.3377
www.sbck.org