

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#3

From: Megan Gamble <megan@wilsonpa.com>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:43 AM
To: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve; sbcob
Cc: Charles T. Plough; Jacob Asare
Subject: Comment Letter Submission for ExxonMobil Temporary Trucking Permit
Attachments: Mayor of Santa Maria Letter.pdf; Councilmember of Santa Maria Letter.pdf

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Dear Supervisors and Clerk of the Board,

I am formally submitting the attached comment letter for the record on behalf of Alice Patino, Santa Maria Mayor and Etta Waterfield, Santa Maria City Councilmember. Their comments are in support of ExxonMobil's temporary trucking permit, agenda item #3, set to be heard on March 8, 2022. Please include his letter for the record.

Respectfully,

Megan Gamble

Vice President

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CITY OF SANTA
MARIA OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

#3
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DIST

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March 7, 2022

**RE: Letter of Support for ExxonMobil
ExxonMobil Interim Trucking for SYU Phased Restart Project**

As a Mayor of Santa Maria, I respectfully urge you to approve ExxonMobil's temporary trucking permit needed to restart the Santa Ynez Unit (SYU).

I have been serving the Santa Maria community for more than 30 years and I know how critical the revenue from restarting SYU would be to our constituents. I am also aware of the unintended consequences our votes can have, so **I urge the Board of Supervisors to consider that your vote today could have reverberations that span *any business* permitted to operate here in Santa Barbara County.**

If the Board votes against a temporary trucking permit for a fully permitted business to simply operate according to the permit conditions established by this very County, **it could set a negative precedent for all businesses looking to find new opportunities here in the County, whether it's trucking or otherwise.**

My colleagues and I at City Council passed a resolution in full support of the trucking permit because we recognize the benefits it will bring to our constituents as well as the high safety standards that the County has put in place. That resolution is attached.

I also understand firsthand how directly the \$4.5 million in additional funds for education provided by the restart would impact students at all levels in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County generally. The district I taught in, the Santa Maria-Bonita District, would receive nearly \$90,000 from the restart and the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, where I was a board member, would receive over \$200,000 in additional funding to provide more resources for students. Allan Hancock College, where I went to school and where 98% of the students are from the local community, would receive more than \$450,000 per year.

My community is not the only community in the County that would benefit. With the restart early \$2 million would flow to Santa Barbara County's General Fund, which covers vital services and infrastructure.

I hope you will approve the temporary trucking permit so that our whole County can benefit.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. PATINO
Mayor

March 7, 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a Santa Maria City Councilmember and long-time resident of North County, I respectfully urge you to approve ExxonMobil's temporary trucking permit needed to restart the Santa Ynez Unit (SYU). I voted with my City Council Colleagues to approve a resolution in full support of this permit because we know the route and additional trucking regulations have been thoroughly reviewed for safety, and the economic benefits the restart will bring for our community members. See the resolution attached.

On behalf of the constituents I represent here in Santa Maria, I am deeply concerned that the denial of this temporary trucking permit will have negative impacts for *any future business opportunities* in Santa Barbara County at a time when they are most needed. I'll say it plainly, **to deny this temporary trucking permit is to deny a permitted business the right to operate under their permit conditions.**

In Santa Maria, we desperately need the revenue that restarting the Santa Ynez Unit would provide for vital services such as education and public safety.

The property tax alone from the project would impact the constituents that I serve immensely. Restarting SYU would increase total education funding in Santa Barbara by \$4.5 million per year, and specifically would provide over \$450,000 to Allan Hancock Community College District; over \$200,000 to the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, where almost 75% of students receive free or reduced meals; and nearly \$90,000 to the Santa Maria-Bonita District.

This funding would be instrumental in ensuring that Santa Maria K-14 students succeed and putting this money back into schools simply requires you to support a temporary trucking permit.

In addition to education, restarting SYU would provide much-needed funding for public safety services like Santa Barbara County Fire and Sheriffs.

Our County needs the benefits provided by the restart of the Santa Ynez Unit. I urge you to approve the temporary trucking permit to get their operations restarted.

Sincerely,

Etta Waterfield

Santa Maria City Councilmember

RESOLUTION NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA,
CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING
COMMISSION PROJECT CASE #17RVP00000-00081, A PROPOSAL TO RESTART
CRITICAL LOCAL OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS THRU THE TEMPORARY
TRUCKING OF CRUDE OIL ALONG NORTHERN STRETCHES OF HIGHWAY 101
TO A DESTINATION ADJACENT TO SANTA MARIA**

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Maria has long believed that the quality of life we enjoy in Santa Barbara County is based upon a balance and promotion of economic, social, and environmental health, that Santa Marians believe prosperity is the result supporting businesses that provide jobs and revenues that help us all sustain a healthy livelihood; and

WHEREAS, northern Santa Barbara County's residents and visitors enjoy the coastline, valleys, forests, and open spaces and acknowledge the valuable role that the agriculture and oil and gas industries have historically played in preserving such lands for all to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Plains 901 pipeline incident and subsequent shut down in May 2015, ExxonMobil temporarily suspended production of its operations located offshore and at Las Flores Canyon, an operation which employed approximately 200 employees and 130 contractors; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil, with only 60 employees and few contractors is currently maintaining its facilities in a state of preservation in a safe and environmentally responsible manner in order to maintain system integrity until full restart can occur; and

WHEREAS, while a pipeline is the preferred long-term option to transport crude, ExxonMobil is seeking a temporary trucking permit to resume operations in accordance with Santa Barbara County regulations, where only a limited amount of crude production from their facility will be temporarily trucked before a pipeline option becomes available; and

WHEREAS, interim trucking will result in no more than 70 truckloads of crude per day, representing a minor increase in total county daily highway truck traffic, traveling from Las Flores Canyon northbound to one of two designated offsite locations: P66 Santa Maria Terminal (adjacent to Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County) and to Kern County; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Santa Barbara County Supervisors approved an emergency permit to de-inventory remaining pre-spill and stored oil, whereby over the course of six months approximately 16,800,000 gallons or 400,000 barrels of oil were safely transported from Las Flores Canyon to local markets via approximately 2,500 tanker trucks; and

March 7, 2022

Agenda Item #3D.

WHEREAS, during normal operations, ExxonMobil's operation is a major source of federal royalties and was one of the largest single taxpayers in Santa Barbara County, adding more than \$45 million in taxes paid to the county between 2005 and 2015, with local school districts, Hancock Community College, local emergency services, infrastructure, and other public services benefiting from oil and gas tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, economic, social and environmental values are vital components to a successful quality of life in Santa Maria, and that well-paying jobs and substantial tax revenues have profound multiplier effects upon residents livelihoods, their families, their businesses, as well as the essential government services; and

WHEREAS, this reasonable proposal would return a thriving business that has won national safety awards, and is an essential part of the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Santa Maria supports Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Project Case # 17RVP-00000-00081, a proposal to restart critical local oil and gas operations thru the temporary trucking of crude oil along northern stretches of Highway 101 to a destination adjacent to Santa Maria.

SECTION 2. The Chief Deputy City Clerk is hereby authorized to make minor changes herein to address clerical errors, so long as substantial conformance of the intent of this document is maintained. In doing so, the Chief Deputy City Clerk shall consult with the City Manager and City Attorney concerning any changes deemed necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Santa Maria held this 19th day of March 2019.

ATTEST:

Mayor

Chief Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Interim City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Department Director

City Manager