

**ATTACHMENT B
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joseph Dargel, Planning & Development

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN: 081-230-021

Case Nos.: 17EMP-00000-00012

Location: 12750 Calle Real, Gaviota, CA 93117

Project Title: Venoco Line 96 De-Inventory Project

Project Applicant: Venoco, LLC

Project Description:

The proposed project is for an emergency permit to allow the de-inventory of Venoco's Line 96 to reduce the risk of an oil spill. Line 96 is currently idled and contains approximately 1,700 barrels of dry oil presenting a potential oil spill risk to the local environment. Crude oil product from the pipeline will be transferred into trucks stationed at the Ellwood Pipeline Inc. (EPI) Tautrim valve site, which is the tie-in point between Venoco's Line 96 and the Plains All American Pipeline. The Plains pipeline is currently empty and idle due to the May 2015 Refugio spill incident.

Up to 5 vacuum truckloads per day will be loaded directly from the EPI valve station. The duration of the de-inventory work is an estimated period of 10 days, including mobilization, trucking operations, and demobilization. A total of 19 truckloads are planned based on the estimated volume of fluids in Line 96 (1,700 barrels), the standard vacuum truck capacity of approximately 5,000 gallons (120 barrels), the maximum loading of 100 barrels per truck, and an additional 200 barrels of flush water. An estimated 17 truckloads of crude oil will be transported via Hwy 101 to the Santa Maria Pump Station and an estimated 2 truckloads of flush water will be transported to an appropriate non-hazardous oilfield waste handling and recycling facility such as Anterra's facility in Oxnard. A portable electric water pump will be used within Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF) to push the oil and water west to the Tautrim property.

Line 96 will be evacuated of oil (de-inventoried) and remain in idled status pending final pipeline abandonment. No new equipment or facility modifications or expansions to the EOF are planned. Minor brush clearing will occur for temporary equipment placement adjacent to the EPI valve station. Trips will be limited to normal daylight hours. The project will occur on APN 081-230-021, a 276.69-acre parcel, zoned AG-II-320 and located at 12750 Calle Real in the Gaviota Area, 3rd Supervisorial District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Venoco, LLC

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15269(c) – Emergency Projects, specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Reasons to support exemption findings: This section allows for emergency actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. In this case, the shut-in of Venoco’s Line 96 presents a potential spill emergency. In the event of a natural disaster (earthquake), structural failure of the pipeline, or accidental disturbance of the pipeline from an external force (subsurface work like drilling or excavation), the crude oil product currently in the line would be released to the environment, possibly entering creeks and ultimately into the ocean. No secondary containment exists around the pipeline to protect the environment from potential pipeline failure. Additionally, Venoco has relinquished their lease of offshore production interests and no longer has the right to produce. Under the current state regulation, interest in the lease cannot be transferred to another entity. As such, oil will no longer be processed through EOF or Line 96. To prevent loss or damage to life, health, property and the environment, the crude oil in Line 96 should be transported by truck to an appropriate facility as soon as possible.

Pursuant to Section 35-171.4 of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance, the Director of Planning and Development has verified the existence and nature of the emergency. Therefore, this situation constitutes an emergency in accordance with the applicable zoning ordinance indicated above and immediate action is warranted.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Joseph Dargel Phone #: 568-3573

Department/Division Representative: _____ Date: _____

Acceptance Date: _____

distribution: Hearing Support Staff

Project file (when P&D permit is required)
Date Filed by County Clerk: _____.