

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

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From: Nancy Emerson <nancyfemerson52@gmail.com>
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To: sbcob
Subject: WE Watch letter, Sable Oil Pipeline
Attachments: WEWSableoilpipelineletter22125.docx

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Good morning,

Please include the attached letter from WE Watch with materials for Item #25-00144, Sable Oil Pipeline.

Thank you.
Nancy Emerson

WE Watch, P.O Box 830, Solvang CA 93464

February 21, 2025

Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County



Dear Chair Capps and Board Members,

WE Watch opposes restarting the current Sable owned Las Flores Pipeline because it threatens the Santa Ynez Valley in several ways. It is important that these risks be acknowledged and corrected before any oil is transported by pipeline.

The current compromised pipeline needs replacing because of the potential danger of oil spills from it as it passes through our Valley. Its route goes along Highway 101 and Nojoqui Creek, fed by a year-round waterfall, for several miles. This creek then crosses the Santa Ynez River's flood plain and enters the river at Buellton potentially endangering downstream agriculturists dependent on this River's water supply.

Meantime the pipeline's route bears west, crosses the river and then traverses area that was farmland 30+ years ago but is now Buellton's prime park. It goes through a neighborhood north of the park, then north through a second neighborhood with 2 schools before returning to the Highway 101 corridor. Buellton is the only city potentially impacted by the current pipeline. The pipeline not only would need replacement but rerouting outside Buellton city limits to properly protect this city's residents, property and environment.

According to the Houston Business and Energy Blog, in 2022 Sable paid \$643 M for Exxon's oil facilities in Santa Barbara County, but Sable had to borrow \$625M (from Exxon) to make the purchase. We question whether Sable has the financial strength to repay its loan, replace and reroute the pipeline and deal with the damage from potential oil spills.

We urge you to educate the involved state agencies' staff about the danger of this pipeline to Buellton and our Valley's water supply. They need to reconsider their decision. Please do not approve restarting such a deficient pipeline.

WE Watch Board of Directors