

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jacquelynn Ybarra, Planner, Energy Minerals & Compliance Division

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:** Various                      **Case No.:** Not Applicable

**Location:** 12000 Calle Real, Goleta California, and 122 linear miles beginning at the Las Flores Pump Station to the Pentland Delivery Point

**Project Title:** Sable Offshore Corporation Change of Owner, Change of Guarantor, and/or Change of Operator for the Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System

**Project Applicant:** Sable Offshore Corporation (Sable)

**Project Description:** Applicant requesting approval of the following:

1. A Change of Owner, Change of Operator, and Change of Guarantor of the Santa Ynez Unit Onshore Facilities, Final Development Plan Permit No. 87-DP-32cz (RV06), from ExxonMobil Corporation to Sable;
2. A Change of Operator and Change of Guarantor of the Pacific Offshore Pipeline Company Gas Plant, Final Development Plan Permit No. 93-FDP-015 (AM03) from ExxonMobil Corporation to Sable; and
3. A Change of Operator and Change of Guarantor of the Las Flores Pipeline System, Final Development Plan Permit No. 88-DPF-033 (RV01)z, 88-CP-60 (RV01)(88-DPF-25cz;85-DP-66cz; 83-DP-25cz) from ExxonMobil Pipeline Company and ExxonMobil Corporation to Sable respectively.

Sable purchased the Santa Ynez Unit, and acquired Pacific Offshore Pipeline Company (POPCO) and Pacific Pipeline Company, the owners of the POPCO Gas Plant and the Las Flores Pipeline System respectively, on March 14, 2024. Sable is now the sole owner of the Santa Ynez Unit, and both POPCO and Pacific Pipeline Company are now wholly owned subsidiaries of Sable. Sable would operate the Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System, and would be the Guarantor using self-insurance and other financial guarantees to support financial demonstration for the operation and future abandonment of the facilities and pipelines.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development Department

**Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out Project:** Sable Offshore Corporation

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Not a Project

**Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guidelines Section:** 15378(b)(5); the proposed action does not constitute a project as defined in CEQA.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** The requests are exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(a), as the proposed actions do not constitute a “project” as defined in CEQA. Section 15378(a) states, in part:

*“Project” means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonable foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment...”*

Section 15378(b)(5) specifically exempts “organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment” from this definition. The approval of permit changes to reflect a new ownership, guarantor, and/or operator is an administrative action that does not involve any physical modifications to the existing facilities. Under the request, the Owner, Guarantor, and Operator of the County’s Santa Ynez Unit Final Development Plan Permit would change from ExxonMobil Corporation to Sable, the Guarantor and Operator of the County’s POPCO Gas Plant Final Development Plan Permit would change from ExxonMobil Corporation to Sable, and the Guarantor and Operator of the County’s Las Flores Pipeline System Final Development Plan Permit would change from ExxonMobil Corporation and ExxonMobil Pipeline Company to Sable respectively. No physical changes to the permitted facilities are proposed under this request. These permit transfer requests are to transfer existing County permits to a new Owner, Operator, and/or Guarantor pursuant to County Code Chapter 25B, and not for the actual transfer of the underlying assets themselves. The transfer of the underlying assets themselves was finalized between ExxonMobil Corporation, Mobil Pacific Pipeline Company, and Sable per their independent Purchase and Sale Agreement dated January 1, 2022, and finalized on February 14, 2024.

Restart of the facilities is not a part of the County’s permit transfer process, nor would the transfer of permits facilitate restart. The three existing facilities are already permitted to operate under each issued County Final Development Plan Permit. Environmental review for the

construction and operation of the facilities was previously conducted under facility-specific environmental documents, which were adopted during the original approval of the projects. Because the permit transfers do not include any proposed physical changes to the facilities or modifications to the facility operations, no additional environmental review is required. If any new development, or modification of any procedures, operating techniques, or design specifications for the facilities are required that fall under the County's permitting jurisdiction, those would be processed separately under Chapter 35 of the County's Zoning Code.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Jacquelynn Ybarra, Senior Planner, Energy Minerals & Compliance Division

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**Department/Division Representative:**



Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy Minerals & Compliance Division

**Date:** February 12, 2025

**Acceptance Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Distribution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Filed by County Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_