

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: Tom Becker

Subject: Agenda Item 2, May 16, 2017

On April 28, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order calling for a review of all oil and gas developments, or potential developments, located in federal waters. The review also includes federal waters located off the coast of Santa Barbara County, and the State of California. The review will be conducted in a scientific manner, with all the facts taken under consideration.

In May 2015, Line 901 ruptured along the Gaviota Coast. Prior to the rupture, Venoco Oil was permitted by the county government to construct a pipeline from Goleta to Line 901. During the EIR process for the Venoco pipeline project, the dangers of Line 901 were openly discussed at public meetings. The county government gave a permit for the Venoco pipeline and hookup, in spite of the knowledge of the dangers of line 901. Various "environmental" groups also supported the project, with knowledge of the dangers of Line 901. At the time of the rupture, Line 901 was under the jurisdiction of the federal government, with the regulatory agency controlled by President Obama and his administration, who had full knowledge, or should have had full knowledge, of the condition of the pipeline.

President Trump is expected to unveil a large infrastructure plan in the near future. The President has called for projects that contain government and private business collaboration. The development of federal offshore oil and gas reserves is perhaps the best example of collaboration between government and private business. The investment of federal infrastructure money into improving, modernizing and expanding federal offshore oil facilities and pipelines, would bring hundreds of millions, if not billions, of oil and gas royalty dollars to the county. The investment would also create tens of thousands of middle and upper middle class jobs. Considering the massive poverty that exists in the county, the development of federal oil and gas reserves is the right thing to do.

President Trump will develop federal oil and gas reserves in a safe, clean and fair manner. Unlike thoughtless Obama, unlike fake "environmental" groups, unlike county regulators, President Trump will make sure federal oil facilities and pipelines are modernized and updated. This plan will include the best available safety and environment features, conform with all federal safety and environmental regulations, and ensure strict and proper maintenance and inspections.

The people who are opposed to federal offshore oil development, are the same people who supported increased oil flow into a dangerous pipeline they knew to be dangerous. They have no credibility before the American people.