



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Closed Session*

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**From:** Thomas Becker <tbeckerpower@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2026 12:10 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public comment, Closed session, BOS meeting of 6/23/26  
**Attachments:** BOS closed session, June..pdf

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Please see attached public comment

6/18/26

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

From: Tom Becker

Subject: Public comment, closed session, BOS meeting of 6/23/26

- 1- This public comment concerns the Sable v County lawsuit filed in Federal District Court.
- 2- This comment letter must be included in the administrative record compiled by the county that is provided to the court and plaintiffs.
- 3- On December 16, 2025, County Counsel admitted the Request For Advice Letter submitted to the FPPC in May/June 2025 contained false material facts concerning the location of Sable's Line 325 pipeline in relation to Hartmann's property.
- 4- On December 16, 2025 Hartmann recused herself from the hearing on permit transfers for the SYU onshore facilities.
- 5- On December 16, 2025 County Counsel participated in the hearing on the permit transfers for the SYU unit.
- 6- Both the meetings and votes of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and December 16, 2025 concerning the transfer of permits for the Sable onshore SYU may have been ministerial.
- 7- If the hearings and votes were ministerial, absolute legislative immunity may be voided in federal civil rights lawsuits.
- 8- County Counsel and P&D employees do not have absolute immunity.
- 9- County Counsel and P&D employees coordinated their efforts to create the document that contained false material facts that was submitted to the FPPC in May/June 2025.
- 10- At the time the false documents were being submitted to the FPPC, County Counsel, P&D staff and Hartmann all had easy access to documents in the county's possession that directly contradicted the false material facts submitted to the FPPC.
- 11- County Counsel and P&D staff created/submitted a false document claiming Sable's line 325 pipeline was 900 feet from Hartmann's property. This 900 foot distance placed the pipeline 900 feet from pipeline warning signs that are legally required to be placed directly over the pipeline.
- 12- I can find no indication that County Counsel or P&D notified the OSFM, PHMSA or any other state or federal regulatory agency with jurisdiction over pipeline safety of this alleged, massive hazard to the public and the property owners.

- 13- Because of the exposure of personal liability, Hartmann, the entire office of County Counsel and the entire BOS should recuse themselves of any discussion of the Sable V County lawsuit.
- 14- Because it was County Counsel who submitted the false document to the FPPC, an action that required Hartmann to recuse on December 16, 2025, County Counsel and the entire County Counsel office must recuse themselves from participating in this closed session.
- 15- Going back to the December 16, 2025 hearing and vote: Because County Counsel participated in that hearing, and County Counsel participated in the creation of a false document and submitted that false document to the FPPC, County Counsel's participation at the December 16th meeting tainted the outcome of that meeting in the same way Hartmann's participation at the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting tainted the outcome of that meeting.
- 16- The use of a false document in a systemic, coordinated effort by the county government during the hearing process damaged the due process rights for all citizens, not just Sable's.