

**Appeals of the Sable Offshore Corporation  
Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor for the  
Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores  
Pipeline System Final Development Plan Permits  
Case Nos. 24APL-00025 and 24APL-00026**

**Board of Supervisors Hearing  
November 4, 2025**



**County of Santa Barbara  
Planning and Development  
Errin Briggs**

# Introductions

- **Applicant Team**

- Sable Offshore Corporation
- ExxonMobil

- **Appellants**

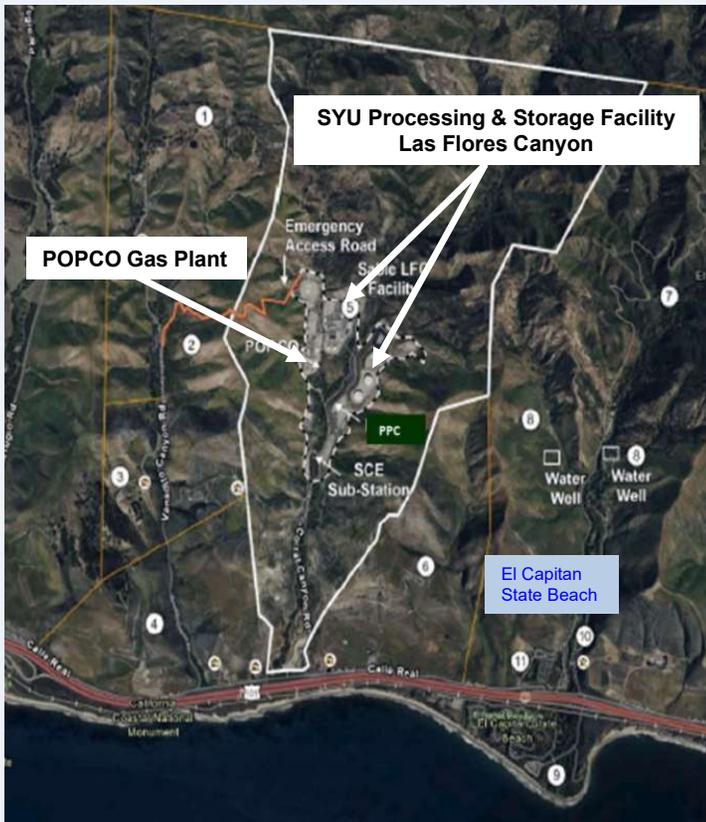
- Center for Biological Diversity together with the Wishtoyo Foundation
- Environmental Defense Center together with Get Oil Out! and the Santa Barbara County Action Network

# Permit Transfer Requests

Request to transfer the following County Final Development Plan Permits:

1. A Change of **Owner, Operator, and Guarantor** of the SYU permit from ExxonMobil to Sable
  2. A Change of **Operator and Guarantor** of the POPCO Gas Plant permit from ExxonMobil to Sable
  3. A Change of **Operator** of the Las Flores Pipeline System permit from ExxonMobil Pipeline Company to Sable, and a Change of **Guarantor** from ExxonMobil to Sable
- POPCO remains owner of the gas plant
  - Pacific Pipeline Company remains owner of the pipeline system
  - Requests are not for the transfer of assets themselves
  - Transfers do not include authorization for restart or continued operations

# Facility Locations



# Facility & Ownership Background

- SYU and Gas Plant treat oil and gas from Hondo, Harmony, and Heritage
- Oil exported through Las Flores Pipeline System
  - 2015 spill under Plains All American caused facilities to shut-in
  - Maintaining integrity under local, state, and federal regulations
- Pacific Pipeline Company acquired pipelines from Plains in 2022
  - Board approved permit transfer in 2023
- Sable acquired the SYU, POPCO, and Pacific Pipeline Company in February 2024
  - Permit Transfer applications submitted in March 2024



# Chronology – Requested Transfers

- Planning Commission approved the requested transfers on October 30, 2024
  - EDC & CBD appealed
  - Board considered appeals on February 25, 2025, but voted 2-2 resulting in no action
- Sable and Exxon filed suit in federal district court
- On September 12, 2025 the court issued an order directing the Board to hold a *de novo* public hearing to affirm, reverse, or modify the PC's decision



# Chapter 25B Consistency

Chapter 25B Finding	Change of Owner	Change of Guarantor	Change of Operator
Fees and exactions paid	✓		✓
Insurance, bond, and financial guarantees updated to reflect new permittee	✓	✓	✓
Permit conditions accepted	✓		✓
County-conducted safety audit submitted to proposed Owner	✓		✓
Permittee in compliance with permit as of the date of Application Completeness	✓		✓
Compliance Plans updated with Operator emergency contact information			✓
Transitional Plan submitted			✓
County-approved Emergency Response Drill conducted			✓
Operator demonstrates skills, training, resources, and ability to comply with County permit/codes			✓



# Appeal Issues

- Appeal issues are related to items required by findings:
  - Financial guarantees / responsibility
  - Operator capability
  - Spill prevention & response
  - State / federal agency compliance
- Staff responses were included with February 25<sup>th</sup> hearing materials

# Staff Recommendation

1. Deny the appeals, Case Nos. 24APL-00025 and 24APL-00026;
2. Make the required Findings for Approval, including CEQA findings;
3. Determine the requests are not a “project” that is subject to environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5); and
4. Grant *de novo* approval of the Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor for the respective Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System Final Development Plan Permits, subject to the Conditions of Approval.



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