

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment

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From: Glenn Morris <glenn@santamaria.com>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 4:06 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Steve Lavagnino; Bob Nelson; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda Item 23-00798 (Pacific Pipeline Company Appeal)

Importance: High

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Please add the following to the record under Public Comment for Agenda Item 2.

Supervisors,

The Santa Maria Valley Chamber wishes to express our support for Pacific Pipeline Company in their appeal of the Planning Commission's April 26, 2023 denial of the Existing Oil Lines 901/903 Valve Upgrade Project Amendment. We respectfully ask that the Board vote to grant the appeal and support the County's Zoning Administrator's original recommendation allowing this project to be permitted.

Beyond the merits and value of this project, the Chamber is concerned with the precedent and message the County is sending to all businesses in our community with the potential denial of the company's request. Specifically, the Board should affirm the principle that businesses with existing investments in our County have the right to maintain those assets, ensuring that they operate in the safest and most efficient manner possible. Such an action would signal to businesses in Santa Barbara County that their elected leaders understand the importance of creating investment and operational certainty and will support the right of existing businesses to operate under the County's ordinances already in place.

As the hearing on this item will establish, Pacific Pipeline Company has a number of options that it can pursue to ensure the safe and effective operation of its assets in our county. We are convinced that the option presented to you in the hearing is the best option, e.g. allowing the company to install additional safety valves on the pipeline. We note that this option most closely aligns the company with AB 864, a law authored by Supervisor Das Williams during his time in the state legislature, requiring pipeline operators to work with the Stat Fire Marshall to install safety valves as is being proposed.

A vote to grant the appeal is justified on the merits of Pacific Pipeline's proposal, and will serve as a reassurance to all industries in Santa Barbara County that they can rely on the County to follow existing regulations in operating their business. For these reasons, we request you vote to support Pacific Pipeline Company's appeal in this matter.

Glenn Morris, ACE
President & CEO



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