



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** Planning & Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** July 1, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Lisa Plowman, Director  
Contact: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report on Case No. 24EMP-00011: Emergency Permit to allow the repair of SoCal Gas' natural gas transmission pipelines known as Line 1005 and Line 160, First and Second Supervisorial District

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this report on Emergency Permit Case No. 24EMP-00011, approved by the Director of Planning & Development on September 10, 2024, which authorized the inspection and repair of two stress, corrosion, and cracking indications demonstrating scouring and loss of integrity of Line 1005 (L1005) and Line 160 (L160), which are both high-pressure gas transmission pipelines; and
- b) Determine that receiving and filing this report is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as it is an administrative government activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This Board item is a report on the Emergency Permit for the repairs for loss of integrity of Line 1005 (L1005) and Line 160 (L160), which are both high-pressure natural gas transmission pipelines. Section 35-171 of Article II, the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Article II) authorizes the Director of the Planning and Development Department (P&D) to temporarily defer standard permit requirements of Article II and issue an Emergency Permit when an emergency action is warranted. Accordingly, verbal

authorization to move forward with the above emergency work was provided by the Director of Planning & Development on May 15, 2024, and the required Emergency Permit was issued on September 11, 2024, after project scope revisions. Pursuant to Section 35-171.6 of Article II, the Director of P&D is required to provide a written report to the Board of Supervisors describing the nature of the emergency and the work involved. This report satisfies that requirement.

### **Discussion:**

On May 10, 2024, SoCal Gas informed County staff that two anomalies, requiring immediate repair, were discovered - one on Line 1005, referred to as Dig #7 and one on Line 160, referred to as Dig #2.

Dig 2 on Line 160 was adjacent to Atascadero Creek and has been completed, the work areas and staging/laydown yard have been demobilized and the line is back to normal operational pressures. Work at Dig #2 included a temporary 20-foot by 10-foot trench, 15 feet deep (approximately 112 cubic yards total) to access the pipeline. Excavated subsoil was replaced in the trench and re-spread the stockpiled topsoil to return to original topography. Trench bottom was padded with imported sand slurry and native rocks were keyed into the bank. An existing disturbed area within APN 065-250-028 adjacent to but outside the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) area was used for the 0.55-acre staging and equipment storage area. Repair activities resulted in temporary impacts to designated steelhead Critical Habitat (Southern California Distinct Population Segment) associated with Atascadero Creek, however, restoration activities restored the area to pre-construction conditions. No coast live oak trees were impacted as a result of the project. The work area will be backfilled and restored to as near pre-construction conditions and contour as possible.

Line 1005 Dig 7, near 7200 Casitas Pass Road, has also been completed. The work at Dig #7 will require a temporary 35-foot by 10-foot trench to a depth of 15 feet (approximately 195 cubic yards) to access the pipeline. Staging and equipment storage covered approximately 0.13-acres within a partially cleared orchard north of and adjacent to the excavation area. A private driveway off Casitas Pass Road provided site access, however, a 30-foot temporary construction equipment access was needed in the SoCalGas easement over the pipeline to get equipment from Casitas Pass Road to the dig site. A total of 13 protected trees were removed, 1 had major encroachment, and 1 had minor encroachment. Replacement tree mitigation allows for a ratio with a minimum of one-gallon size trees, or a three to one (3:1) basis (minimum 15-gallon size). Three 15-gallon replacement trees have been planted to date. The trench was backfilled with the native soil after the repair is complete.

Pursuant to Article II Section 35-171.5.3, an Emergency Permit does not constitute an entitlement to allow for development, and an application for the applicable planning permit must be submitted within 30 days following the granting of the Emergency Permit. A Coastal Development Permit with a public hearing (CDH) is required in order to permit the work described in the Emergency Permit. The Applicant submitted an application for the CDH (Case No. 24CDH-00028) on October 14, 2024, which staff is currently processing.

Issuance of the Emergency Permit was consistent with Article II, as the action provided an immediate response to an emergency situation in the interest of health, safety, and public welfare. The Department granted the Emergency Permit based on a statutory exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(b)) due to the need to maintain essential public service facilities posed by the threat of the exposed pressurized natural gas transmission pipeline and the potential for release of natural gas into the environment. A copy of the CEQA Exemption is included herein as Attachment 2. The Board's receiving and filing of this report is an administrative action under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15373(b)(5) that does not constitute a separate project for purposes of environmental review.

Pursuant to Article II Section 35-171.6, the Planning & Development Director is required to report in writing to the Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission the nature of the emergency and the work involved. This report satisfies that requirement.

**Background:**

The project is broken up into two different sites located within Santa Barbara County. The two work areas require completing a Stress Corrosion Cracking Direct Assessment (SCCDA), Emergency Inspection and Repair to investigate and repair loss of integrity. Dig #2 is within the Coastal Appeals Jurisdiction and the riparian area of Atascadero Creek and could affect waterways and ESH. Dig #7 is not within the Coastal Appeals Jurisdiction, but required removal of up to 16 Coast Live Oak trees to access the Right-of-Way. The SCCDA digs are necessary to bring both lines back to their full operational pressure.

Dig #2, was on SoCal Gas Pipeline 160 near 1148 S More Ranch Road directly adjacent to Atascadero Creek near Goleta. Access to the site was taken directly off S More Ranch Road. The surrounding landscape includes Atascadero Creek, surrounded dense riparian vegetation, and vacant land associated with the residential and agricultural activities in the area. The site is zoned AG-I-5.

Dig #7, was on SoCal Gas Pipeline 1005 near 7200 Casitas Pass Road north of Carpinteria. The surrounding landscape includes Coast Live Oak woodland with residential and agricultural activities in the area. The site is zoned AG-I-40.

The remediation of the two locations were determined to be emergency activities in order to avoid a disruption of essential public services. To avoid curtailing customers, the inspections and repairs had to be conducted as emergency activities to avoid impacts to public health, safety and welfare as defined in CEQA.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

County staff costs for preparing the Emergency Permit are reimbursed by the applicant in conformance with the current Board-adopted fee ordinance. The estimated total cost to process this Emergency Permit is approximately 40 staff hours, which equates to \$11,280.00. Funding for this project is budgeted in the Planning & Development's Permitting Budget Program, on Page D-313 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Adopted Budget. Future permitting costs associated with this project will be borne completely by the applicant.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Issued Emergency Permit 25EMP-002

**Attachment B** – CEQA Notice of Exemption - Section 15378(b)(5)

**Attachment C** – Site Plan

**Contact Information:**

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