



CAL FIRE

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Pipeline Safety Division

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
August 22, 2023 Meeting

Introduction

- The Office of the State Fire Marshal – Pipeline Safety Division (OSFM) regulates and inspects hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide (Co2) pipelines and operators to ensure operational safety and compliance with State and federal pipeline laws.
- The OSFM does not grant permits for the construction, repair, or siting of a pipeline. Permits are granted by local governments.
- In this specific case, the OSFM reviewed and approved a plan to retrofit the existing pipeline with best available technologies that would reduce the volume of oil spilled in the event of pipeline failure as required in statute, Government Code 51013.1.

Best Available Technology Evaluation

- This is a highly complicated and engineering intensive evaluation by skilled engineers with decades of pipeline operations, regulatory, and inspection experience.
- Pipelines are required to install best available technology, including leak detection and valves (among other requirements), based on a risk analysis that is reviewed and approved by the OSFM.
- The technologies must limit the volume of oil spilled based on a worst-case discharge scenario.
- In the evaluation of the risk analysis, valves were placed in key points along the line to most effectively reduce the volume of discharge.

Closing Remarks

- Pipelines are complex and technical in nature
- The OSFM's mission is to ensure safe operation of pipelines and compliance with State and federal law
- Our office thoroughly evaluated the risk analysis associated with the installation of the proposed valves
- The OSFM believes that if there is a pipeline failure, these valves will reduce the spill volume and represents a best available technology
- It is important to note that the pipeline must pass meet additional inspections requirements and specific safety criteria before possibly being restarted

