

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment - Group 1



**From:** Thomas Becker <tbeckerpower@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 11:01 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Additional public comment, BOS meeting of 1/5/26, closed session

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Just a follow up to my 1/2/26 public comment submitted for BOS closed session, 1/5/26 meeting. It may be required for the Board to notify the Federal District Court of my public comment letter. A potential FPPC complaint submitted in a timely manner may attempt to null and void the 11/4/25 and 12/16/25 BOS votes concerning the Sable Offshore pipeline.

Tom Becker

## Sheila de la Guerra

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**From:** Laurence Severance <laurenceseverance@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 11:48 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Steve Lavagnino; Laura Capps; Roy Lee; Supervisor Nelson; Joan Hartmann  
**Subject:** January 6, 2026 Agenda item 26-00008 - Closed session re: Sable Pipeline

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Chair Capps and Supervisors,

As a Santa Barbara resident deeply concerned to protect our local environment from human-caused disasters, I respectfully request that you stand firm in your opposition to the Sable Pipeline and utilize all necessary resources available to you, including legal proceedings, to hold your position denying Sable's efforts to restart oil and gas transport through pipelines that disastrously failed in 2015. It is critical that any activity by Sable be protected by adequate insurance and other resources to cure and/or compensate for damages caused should Sable proceed to operate. Under present circumstances, please stop Sable from operating processing facilities, pipelines, and storage facilities in our County.

Here are facts that support this request:

- On December 16, you, the County Board of Supervisors, voted to deny Sable's application to operate the onshore Santa Ynez Unit facilities due to Sable's pattern of irresponsible and unsafe behavior.
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- A federal judge has already ruled that "Sable cannot restart oil and gas processing and transport in the facilities and pipeline without an FDP [Final Development Plan]" and that "Chapter 25B does not merely provide for the transfer of FDPs, it creates an administrative process designed to bar the transfer of FDPs to a transferee that would place the environment at risk." The judge ruled that Chapter 25B requires the Board of Supervisors to decide whether to approve the transfer.

With appreciation,

Laurence Severance

## Sheila de la Guerra

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**From:** Jana Zimmer <[zimmerccc@gmail.com](mailto:zimmerccc@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 12:41 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment- Special Meeting Sable Oil Jan. 5 2026

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Please distribute below with corrected date

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jana Zimmer <[zimmerccc@gmail.com](mailto:zimmerccc@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Jan 4, 2026 at 12:39 PM  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Special Meeting Sable Oil Jan. 5 2026  
**To:** Jacquelyne Alexander <[sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)>  
**Cc:** Laura Capps <[lcapps@countyofsb.org](mailto:lcapps@countyofsb.org)>

To the Clerk: Please distribute in advance of Special meeting of Monday, January 5, 2026

Dear Supervisors:

Items pertaining to oil development and transportation have been of critical importance and public interest for the fifty years since the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, and even more so after the 2015 Plains spill. Because of the high level of public concern and consequence, the Board has had a clear policy of transparency, and accountability to the public in the past. Under the leadership of Tom Rogers, Bill Wallace, David Yager and Toru Miyoshi- both north and south county Supervisors, Republicans and Democrats- public discussion and justification of the Board's decisions was paramount. I know this because I was directly involved, both as Senior Deputy County Counsel, and later as an attorney representing American Oceans Campaign in front of the Coastal Commission, and in cooperation with NRDC, in the proceedings pertaining to the proposal to tanker Chevron's oil from Gaviota, which was thankfully defeated.

In this case, and in others affecting major policy decisions, the public has a right to know the rationale- and even the legal rationale for the County's decisions. Disclosure of the contents of the substantive issues in no way impairs the sanctity of the attorney-client privilege, or the Board's evaluation of risk. I have served as Chief Deputy County Counsel, as an Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board member, and a member of the Tax Assessment Appeals Board in the County, as well as a Coastal Commissioner, and I know first hand the negative effect of failing to fully and accurately report the substance of considerations in closed sessions to the affected public. I have personally seen decisions

made based on irrelevant considerations, and misrepresentations or misunderstandings of facts.

Second, I agree in this instance that Supervisor Hartman should recuse herself, given the legal uncertainty of her past participation/non-participation in decisions affecting this property. The participation of County Counsel in Supervisor Hartman's past decisions regarding recusal is unclear. Therefore, and in order to make sure the public has a clear understanding and an objective appraisal of the nature of risk to be undertaken going forward, I also strongly recommend that it is past time for the Board to engage independent eminent domain counsel to evaluate threats from Sable alleging inverse condemnation, or to request assistance from the Attorney General to advise and represent it in this critically important matter going forward.

You are free to contact me for further recollections as you deem appropriate.

Very Truly Yours,

Jana Zimmer

(805)705-3784

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Jana Zimmer

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