

# 3

Ramirez, Angelica

# Public Comment

**From:** Eric Friedman <EFriedman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 4, 2022 4:38 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Item 3: Exxon Mobile Trucking Letter of Opposition  
**Attachments:** Exxon Mobile Trucking City letter of opposition.pdf

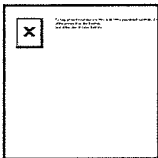
LATE  
DIST

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Chair Hartmann and Members of the Board,

In regards to item 3 on your agenda, I am resubmitting the September 27, 2021 letter and August 4, 2020 resolution of opposition to this project from the City of Santa Barbara. In addition to the City's legislative platform referenced in the letter that supports prohibition of off-shore oil development, there are additional concerns with this project. In particular, should there be another oil spill there would be economic harm. As you know, the City of Santa Barbara and the South Coast are reliant on our tourism industry which is still recovering from the pandemic. The City also is home to a highly productive and valuable commercial fishing industry as well as many small local businesses that are ocean dependent. The 2015 Plains oil spill at Refugio had an economic impact on these industries and businesses.

I urge you to deny the project due to both environmental and economic considerations. Thank you for your time and consideration.



**Eric Friedman**  
*Councilmember*  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, Mayor & City Council  
(805) 564-5320 | [EFriedman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:EFriedman@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)



# City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

CMurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

September 27, 2021

**Cathy Murillo**  
Mayor

Honorable Bob Nelson  
Chair, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101-1990

**RE: Letter of Opposition – ExxonMobil Application to Transport Crude Oil from Las Flores Canyon – Planning Commission Case No. Case No. 17RVP-00000-00081**

Dear Chair Nelson,

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

In 2017, the City Council adopted language in its Legislative Platform that, *“supports prohibition of offshore oil development, including hydraulic fracturing and other high-intensity petroleum operations, based, in part, on concern about the impacts to on-shore support facilities and services by offshore development activities.”*

Tel: (805) 564-5322  
Fax: (805) 564-5475

Moreover, on August 4, 2020, the City Council unanimously adopted the enclosed Resolution opposing the above-referenced application by ExxonMobil to install and operate a new oil tanker truck loading rack and appurtenant equipment at ExxonMobil's onshore Las Flores Canyon (LFC) processing facility in order to transport produced crude oil via diesel-driven DOT 407 tanker trucks from the LFC to two receiving terminals located in Santa Barbara and Kern County, respectively.

Consistent with this Resolution, the City Council urges the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to deny the application, which will be considered by the Planning Commission on September 29, 2021.

I have reviewed the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for above-referenced project, which identifies potential impacts related to an accidental spill of crude oil from a truck accident and the potential impact to sensitive resources including biological, cultural, and water resources. The No Project Alternative, however, was found to be the environmentally superior alternative, as none of the impacts associated with the proposed Project or other alternative would occur. This would apply for both the SMPS and Pentland Terminal routes.

For these reasons, I am writing this letter on behalf of the City to oppose the ExxonMobil application. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me at [CMurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:CMurillo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov) or by phone at (805) 564-5322 should you have any questions or need more information.

Respectfully,

Cathy Murillo  
Mayor

CC: Santa Barbara County Planning Commission  
Jeff Wilson, Secretary to the Planning Commission



Please consider the environment before printing this letter.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-059

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE SANTA  
BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROJECT CASE #17RVP-00000-00081  
A PROPOSAL TO TRUCK OFFSHORE OIL ALONG SANTA BARBARA,  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, AND KERN COUNTY HIGHWAYS

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara has been a leader in the environmental movement since the disastrous January 1969 oil spill that released more than 3 million gallons of crude oil into the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Santa Barbara beaches and the Santa Barbara Channel were severely contaminated and a massive number of marine life was killed due to the 1969 "blow-out," which resulted in the development of state and federal environmental protection regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara suffered harm from the 2015 Plains All American pipeline rupture in the form of damaged reputation, loss of tourism-related tax revenue, and degradation of the natural environment related to marine life fatalities, and was forced to file a \$2.2 million-dollar claim against Plains All-American; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara City Council values our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

**WHEREAS**, children in Santa Barbara enjoy our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational and educational activities and our coastal and marine ecosystems should be protected for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara City Council took a position in 2015 opposing oil trains traveling through the city limits to the Phillips 66 refinery in Nipomo, concerned about the risk to the health and safety of city residents in the event of an accident or spill; and

**WHEREAS**, the extremely high rate of accidents makes trucking one of the worst and most dangerous forms of transport because oil truck accidents cause fires and explosions, injure and kill people, and spill hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude a year onto roads and into waterways; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of accidents along the proposed oil-truck route is higher than the state average, and the trucking routes would pass through critical habitat for several species protected as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA, including red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, and Southern California steelhead; and

**WHEREAS**, the heavy-duty diesel trucks carrying the oil would emit noxious pollutants that threaten the health of residents, including children, along the proposed route, such as particulate matter (PM) and nitrous oxide; and

**WHEREAS**, the ExxonMobil Las Flores Processing Facility, within close proximity of the City of Santa Barbara, was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and PM before Exxon's offshore platforms were idled in 2015, and California has identified diesel PM as a toxic air contaminant and has estimated that 70 percent of the cancer risk from the air Californians breathe can be attributed to diesel PM; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased air pollution from restarting Exxon's platforms and trucking oil would put children's health at risk because their immune and respiratory system are still in development; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed trucking route passes less than 250 feet from Refugio State Beach campground where 160,000 visitors a year swim, play and camp and within 200 feet of the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train tracks serving nearly 3 million passengers annually; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Santa Barbara City Council opposed new drilling off the California coast and fracking in existing offshore oil and gas wells because fracking threatens the Santa Barbara Channel with toxic chemical discharges. Approving the platform restart and trucking proposal will increase existing levels of oil production off our coast, including fracking, thus creating threats to our coast, wildlife, public health, and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara City Council adopted a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan in 2012, which focuses on sustainable energy practices and development of renewable energy sources, and the City is actively pursuing a Community Choice Energy program; and

**WHEREAS**, the application to restart offshore platforms and put 70 oil tanker trucks carrying nearly half-a-million gallons of flammable crude on our highways every day would exacerbate climate change both from the production and transport of the crude oil cargo and the consumption of that oil; and burning the 4 million barrels of oil intended for trucking in a year would result in over 1.7 million metric tons of carbon pollution -- the same amount as burning nearly 2 billion pounds of coal; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal would bring aging offshore drilling platforms back online, which is inconsistent with California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a recent scientific study confirmed that every barrel of California oil left in the ground will result in a net decrease of about half a barrel of oil consumption globally.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:**

Our Council opposes Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Project Case # 17RVP-00000-00081, an application to restart offshore oil platforms and truck offshore oil along Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern County highways.

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-059**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA        ) ss.  
  )  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA            )

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on August 4, 2020, by the following roll call vote:

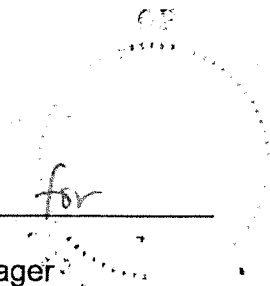
AYES:                    Councilmembers Eric Friedman, Oscar Gutierrez, Meagan Harmon, Mike Jordan, Kristen W. Sneddon; Mayor Cathy Murillo

NOES:                    None

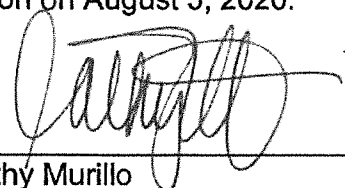
ABSENT:                 None

ABSTENTIONS:        Councilmember Alejandra Gutierrez

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on August 5, 2020.

  
*Sarah P. Gorman* for  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah P. Gorman, CMC  
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing resolution on August 5, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Murillo  
Mayor