



**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: December 16, 2025
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: 75 MINUTES
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: November 4, 2025
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning & Development
Contact: Errin Briggs, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division
SUBJECT: Hearing to consider the appeals of the Planning Commission Approval of the Sable Offshore Corporation's Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor for the Santa Ynez Unit, Pacific Offshore Pipeline Company Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System Final Development Plan Permits. Third, Fourth, and First Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

Staff recommends the Board uphold the appeals and deny the requested permit changes by taking the following actions:

- a) Approve the appeals, Case Nos. 24APL-00025 and 24APL-00026;
- b) Make the required findings for denial of the Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor for the respective Santa Ynez Unit (SYU), Pacific Offshore Pipeline Company (POPCO) Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System Final Development Plan (FDP) Permits;
- c) Determine that denial of the requests is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15270(a); and
- d) Deny the Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor for the respective SYU, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System FDP Permits.

Summary Text:

This item is the continued consideration of the appeals of the Planning Commission's October 30, 2024 approval of the Change of Owner, Change of Operator, and Change of Guarantor for the SYU, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipeline System FDP Permits from ExxonMobil Corporation and ExxonMobil Pipeline Company to Sable Offshore Corporation (Sable).

Background:

The Board most recently considered this item on November 4, 2025 in a *de novo* public hearing to either affirm, reverse, or modify the Planning Commission's decision to transfer the above mentioned County permits to Sable, in accordance with County Code Chapter 25B and the United States District Court Central District of California Writ of Mandate No. CV 25-4165-DMG (AGRx).

On November 4, 2025, after considering the complete administrative record for the requests, hearing all presentations from staff, appellants, and applicants, and after considering all public comments, the Board voted 4, 1 to continue the hearing to December 16, 2025 and directed staff to return to the Board with findings supporting the approval of the appeals and the denial of the Change of Owner, Operator, and Guarantor to Sable.

The complete administrative record for this item was included in the October 21, 2025 Set Hearing Letter, as well as the November 4, 2025 Board Agenda Letter and Minute Order. Findings to reverse the Planning Commission's approval and deny the requested permit transfers (and approve the appeals) are included herein as Attachment A. The Findings for Denial refer to, and incorporate by reference, records already included in the administrative record for this item, as well as additional records included in Attachment B.

Fiscal Analysis:

The cost to process these appeals is wholly borne by Sable through payment of Planning & Development permit processing fees. Funding for permit processing is budgeted in the Planning and Development's Permitting Budget Program on Page 307 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Budget.

Special Instructions:

The Planning and Development Department will satisfy all noticing requirements. The Clerk of the Board shall forward the minute order to Planning and Development Department Hearing Support staff, to the attention of David Villalobos (dvillalos@countyofsb.org).

Attachments:

Attachment A – Findings for Denial

Attachment B – Additional Evidence

Attachment C – CEQA Notice of Exemption

Contact Information:

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