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Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

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**From:** Dustin Hoiseth <Dustin@SBSCChamber.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 21, 2023 5:00 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Kristen Miller  
**Subject:** Public Comment - August 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting - Item 2  
**Attachments:** 2023\_8\_21\_PublicComment\_SBSCChamber\_PipelineValve.pdf



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Please see the attached public comment from the Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce regarding Item 2 of tomorrow's agenda.

Thank you.

DUSTIN HOISETH | Public Policy Manager  
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8/21/2023

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

**RE: Pipeline Valve Upgrade Project**

Chair Williams and Supervisors:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing members from Goleta to Carpinteria, would like to express our support for the pipeline valve upgrade project. This is a discussion about consistency and equitable processes. The Chamber and local businesses place a great value on consistency from our government. To maintain a thriving business community, it is important that businesses go into processes knowing that if they comply with Federal, State, and local regulations that they will be treated fairly, and that local jurisdictions will strive to remain consistent with Federal and State regulations. Today's decision to approve or deny the pipeline valve upgrade project will highlight the County's stance on consistency and equitable processes.

This project has undergone significant analysis by both the County Planning Staff and the California Office of the State Fire Marshal. The permits have been approved by the Zoning Administrator. The plans for installation of the safety valves have been approved by the California Office of the State Fire Marshal, in compliance with State regulation. ExxonMobil has followed our County's processes in order to comply with State regulation, and County staff is recommending the approval of this project.

The Chamber is concerned about the message denial of this project would send to businesses within the county, as well as businesses considering new operations here. The investment ExxonMobil has made in the process to arrive at today's meeting has not been insignificant. Other businesses may feel apprehensive about the County's process if it appears to lack objectivity and impartiality, which could lead to a lack of investments by local businesses.

Approval of the pipeline valve upgrade project appears to be the best option for Santa Barbara County going forward, in terms of transparency, objectivity, and consistency. Potentially denying this project on the grounds of not supporting flowing through the pipeline is not consistent with the parameters of this discussion, and should be a discussion for a later date, if necessary. Please approve the pipeline valve upgrade project in the interest of maintaining a consistent and equitable process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristen Miller  
President & CEO  
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce