



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

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: May 1, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Planning & Development Department
Director: Dianne Black, Director, (805) 568-2086

SUBJECT: Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Repair Work Emergency Permit
Case No. 18EMP-00000-00003; First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this report on Emergency Permit 18EMP-00000-00003, which authorized the inspection, excavation and repair of 12 segments on four different high pressure natural gas pipelines. A copy of the Emergency Permit is included herein as Attachment A;
- b) Determine that issuance of the emergency permit is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant CEQA Guidelines section 15269(c), as this action was necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency as specified in Attachment B of this Board Letter; and
- c) Determine that receiving and filing this report is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), as it is an administrative government activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Background:

In the early morning hours of January 9, 2018, a storm hit the Montecito area, resulting in a massive debris flow, including trees and boulders. The flow occurred along creeks within the unincorporated Montecito, Toro Canyon and Carpinteria areas. According to preliminary evaluations conducted by Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas), four existing, high-pressure natural gas pipelines may have been damaged. Lines 1005, 1003, 1004, and 245 cross Toro Canyon Creek, Arroyo Paredon, Carpinteria Creek and associated unnamed tributaries at various locations and may have been impacted by mud, debris flow and floodwaters. SoCal Gas requested an emergency permit to inspect and repair these 12 segments as necessary.

The proposed inspection and potential repair sites are located on APNs: 005-050-011 (zoned 1-E-1), 005-050-015 (zoned 1-E-1), 005-100-023 (zoned RR-10), 005-310-012 (zoned AG-I-20), 005-310-021 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-310-025 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-030-027 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-280-015 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-430-060 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-060-053 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-080-011 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-080-032 (zoned AG-I-10) and 005-010-024 (zoned TC) in the Toro Canyon and Carpinteria areas, 1st Supervisorial District.

On March 28, 2018 the County issued an Emergency Permit to Southern California Gas Company to allow for the inspection, excavation and as needed repairs of these 12 natural gas pipeline segments. This Board Letter reports on the Emergency Permit.

Summary Text:

Section 35-171 of the Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance authorizes the Director of the Planning and Development Department (P&D) to temporarily defer standard permit requirements of the Coastal Zoning Ordinance and issue an Emergency Permit when emergency action is warranted. On March 28, 2018, Assistant Director, Dianne Black issued an Emergency Permit for SoCal Gas' request to conduct inspections, excavations and repair work as needed (see Attachment A). Pursuant to Section 35-171.6, the Director is required to submit a written report describing the emergency action to the Board of Supervisors and California Coastal Commission after issuing an Emergency Permit. The California Coastal Commission was notified, in writing, of the Emergency Permit issuance on March 29, 2018. Pursuant to Article II, Section 35-171.5.1, a notice was mailed to surrounding property owners and residents, and seven notices were posted at the inspection site locations.

Pursuant to Article II Section 35-171.5.3, an Emergency Permit does not constitute an entitlement for development. Section 35-171.5.3 requires an application for the regularly required permit no later than 30 days following the granting of an Emergency Permit, unless this time period is extended by the Director.

Issuance of this Emergency Permit is consistent with the Coastal Land Use Plan, Toro Canyon Community Plan and Article II as the action provides an immediate response to an emergency situation in the interest of health, safety, and public welfare. P&D granted the Emergency Permit based on a statutory exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c)) to inspect pipelines for damage and repair to prevent internal corrosion and potential for operational failure which could significantly impact nearby residents and the surrounding environment. A copy of the CEQA Exemption is included herein as Attachment B.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: County costs for preparing the Emergency Permit are reimbursed by the applicant in conformance with the current Board-approved fee ordinance. Permit revenues are budgeted in the Permitting budget program on page D-286 of the proposed 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. All permitting costs will be paid by the applicant.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Emergency Permit 18EMP-00000-00003 (with Site Plans)

Attachment B: CEQA Exemption Supporting Emergency Permit

Attachment C: CEQA Exemption Supporting Board Receipt and File of Report

CC: Coastal Program Analyst, California Coastal Commission, 89 S. California St #200, Ventura, CA 93001

Authored by: Kathryn Lehr, Planner