

OVERVIEW:

Almost a decade ago, a severely corroded pipeline on the Gaviota Coast ruptured and caused one of the largest oil spills in California history, devastating 150 miles of the California coast. Thousands of acres of shoreline and subtidal habitat were destroyed, and an untold number of animals were injured or killed. Following the spill, ExxonMobil's Santa Ynez Unit – the pipeline, three offshore platforms, and two onshore processing facilities – was shut down and oil and gas production was suspended indefinitely.



Now, a fly-by-night Texas oil company called Sable

is attempting to restart the same corroded pipeline that caused the 2015 Refugio oil spill without environmental review. The state Fire Marshal recently granted the company a waiver to operate the pipeline without effective protection against corrosion – the cause of the last spill.

If this project goes forward, another disaster is all but inevitable.

GENERAL TALKING POINTS:

- Sable is attempting to restart the Santa Ynez Unit – a massive offshore drilling operation that has been shut down since causing the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill.
- Sable intends to restart rather than replace the defective pipeline that caused the 2015 spill. According to an analysis prepared for Santa Barbara County, restarting the pipeline could lead to a spill once a year, and a major rupture every 4 years.
- Sable is a speculative and financially unstable company currently operating at a \$682M deficit. If another spill occurs, Sable may go bankrupt and leave the cost of clean-up to taxpayers.



- Even before restarting, Sable has failed to operate responsibly, receiving notices of violations from three state agencies for violating laws protecting coastal resources and water quality.
- When active, the Santa Ynez Unit was by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Barbara County. Restarting these facilities will significantly increase fossil fuel production and GHG emissions in California and will make it impossible for the County to meet its climate goals.



1. RALLY & HEARING: FEBRUARY 25TH

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

WHAT: Join EDC, our clients Get Oil Out!, SBCAN, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and the Sierra Club, and our broad coalition of partners, in urging the Board of Supervisors to deny the transfer of permits from ExxonMobil to Sable.

WHEN: 8:00 AM Rally, 9:00 AM Hearing We will hold a rally in front of the County Building in advance of the hearing.

WHERE:

County Administration Building Board Hearing Room Fourth Floor 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara

Talking Points for Public Comment:

(In addition to the general talking points on the front)



- The Board of Supervisors should deny Sable's application to transfer permits for the Santa Ynez Unit, POPCO Gas Plant, and Las Flores Pipelines.
- Sable likely cannot afford to cover the cost of remediation if/when another major spill occurs. The public should not have to pay to clean up another spill.
- The Board cannot approve the transfer of permits from Exxon to Sable because Sable has not met the conditions of the permits. For example, the pipeline does not have the critical corrosion protection technology required by the permits.
- Sable has received notices of violations from three state agencies. The questionable behavior of Sable's management team shows that the Board cannot trust them to responsibly operate this project.

2. STATE PUBLIC FORUM: MARCH 13TH

California Natural Resources Agency TIME: Late afternoon/early evening WHERE: TBD location in Santa Barbara





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