

PXP Point Arguello / Gaviota

An ongoing project consisting of three offshore platforms (Hermosa, Harvest and Hidalgo) that produce and process oil and gas from the Point Arguello Offshore field and an oil heating and pumping facility at Gaviota. Originally constructed in 1985 to process oil and gas, the Gaviota facility was reconfigured in 1998 to streamline processing activities and to reduce costs. This reconfiguration moved all processing functions offshore to Platform Hermosa. Pipelines are used to transport oil and gas produced and processed offshore to the Gaviota facility. The gas that is transported to Gaviota is sweetened offshore to reduce levels of hydrogen sulfide and is used to generate electricity and steam for use at the onshore site. Excess electricity can be sold to the public utility grid. The processed crude oil is heated and pumped into the Plains pipeline and transported out of the County to refinery destinations. In 2006 the County removed the Gaviota site's previous designation as a consolidated oil and gas processing site and re-designated it as a consolidated pipeline terminal. Many of the larger pieces of processing equipment have been removed from the site and removal of other equipment no longer needed for current operations continues.

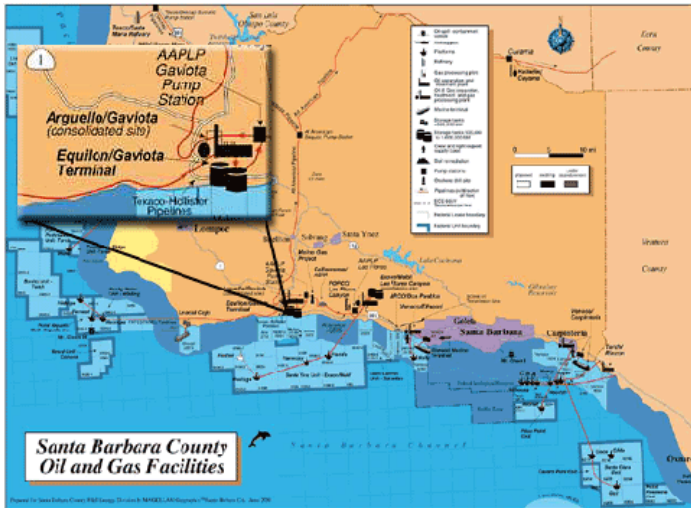


*PXP Platforms Hermosa, Harvest, and Hidalgo are west of Pt. Conception
Pipelines run from Hermosa to the Gaviota Oil Heating Facility*



*Gaviota Oil Heating Facility (GOHF) in foreground (mountain-side of Hwy 101)
GTC's Gaviota Terminal is in background (ocean-side of Hwy 101)*

Gaviota Terminal Abandonment



Location Map



Prior to demolition



Under demolition

Project Description

The project is Demolition and Reclamation (D&R) of the former Gaviota Oil Terminal. A D & R permit was issued to Shell on September 8, 2008 to remove all above ground facilities at the site.

Background

Gaviota Terminal is an onshore oil storage facility that once served as a marine terminal. The Facility is located on the ocean side of Highway 101 opposite the Gaviota Consolidated Pipeline Terminal.

Key Issue

Level of contamination is currently unknown.

Facility Demolition

Equipment demolition began July 21 and was completed in late September. Soil testing begins in early November to determine the extent of site contamination for development of a site remedial action plan. Soil testing will continue through the winter and spring seasons. Once a remedial plan is identified, additional environmental review will be conducted and the D&R permit will be modified.





Energy Division

ExxonMobil

Project Description:

An ongoing project consisting of three offshore platforms (Hondo, Harmony and Heritage) that produce oil and gas from the Hondo, Pescadores and Sacate fields. Pipelines are used to transport oil and gas produced offshore to onshore processing facilities located in Las Flores Canyon. The onshore facility occupies the County's only designated consolidated processing site. The processed crude oil is pumped into the Plains Pipeline for transportation to refinery destinations.



ExxonMobil Facility



Platform Hondo



Platform Heritage



Platform Harmony

ARCO - Dos Pueblos



Project Description

The project is the abandonment and remediation of ARCO's facilities that produced and processed oil and gas from the Elwood field. Remaining activities include part of Phase 1 (b), Phase 1(c), and Phase 2.



Bell Creek Crossing

Background

Abandonment of the oil and gas facilities is divided into the following phases: Phase 1(a) - abandonment of non-producing wells and removing above ground equipment; Phase 1(b)-abandonment of the remaining wells, onsite pipelines, tanks, buildings, and completion of a site assessment; Phase 1(c) - abandonment of all off-site pipelines related to the Dos Pueblos oil and gas field; Phase 2 - construction of the Dos Pueblos Golf Links project.



Pipeline on Eagle Canyon Ranch

Key Issues

Application for Phase 1(c) is currently under review by the Energy Division. Part of the project is in the jurisdiction of City of Goleta. Environmental Review is in process and a mitigated negative declaration is expected to be issued. Mitigation will primarily be related to pipeline removal over Eagle Canyon Creek and Tecolote Creek.

Pipeline segments crossing Bell Creek and adjacent to the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF) are proposed to remain in place for safety reasons until the EOF is abandoned.

ARCO Alegria

Project Description and Background

ARCO Alegria is the site of a former of a former oil and gas processing facility and tank battery idled in 1991. This site once supported crude oil storage tanks, compressors and associated equipment.

The facility occupies approximately one acre of land within the Gaviota Terminal on the western side of Alcatraz Creek.

Equipment removal and initial soil remediation were completed in 2003 – 2005.

Initial site restoration and temporary revegetation were completed in December 2004.

Key Issues

Final remedial action, site restoration and revegetation to pre-project condition are scheduled to be completed in consultation with the Remedial Action Plan for the Gaviota Terminal Abandonment Project.

Groundwater sampling is ongoing. The most recent reports display either no trace of hydrocarbon or the measured quantity of hydrocarbon is below the groundwater clean-up level established for the site by County Fire Department. Final sign-off from County Fire Department is still pending.

Site monitoring will continue to ensure proper cleanup and site restoration.



Site Restoration Progress –
September 2006



Overhead View of the Gaviota Oil Terminal with ARCO's Alegria Facility (arrow)

Southern California Gas Company – Storage Enhancement Project



Photosimulation of drill rig from Goleta Beach Pier.

Background

Southern California Gas Company operates the La Goleta Natural Gas Storage Field, located on S. Patterson in the Goleta area. SoCalGas purchases market quality natural gas when prices are low and stores it in a depleted gas reservoir located at La Goleta. The gas is withdrawn at times of high demand and sold to consumers located in 12 counties in central and southern California.



Location of La Goleta Storage Field

Project Description

- First, drill two new production wells to produce 3 to 5 billion standard cubic feet of native gas from under La Goleta Storage Field.
- Once gas is produced, integrate production wells into storage operations.
- Second, develop two exploratory wells to investigate the feasibility of producing native gas from an adjacent natural gas reserve.
- In support of both phases, install 2,800 feet of underground pipeline and a dehydration unit.
- Amend Public Utility zone district to allow gas drilling and production at this site.

Project Status

- Staff is currently completing an Initial Study to determine the scope of environmental review.
- Following completion and circulation of the Initial Study, staff will begin preparation of an EIR.
- Staff estimates that the project will be heard by the Board of Supervisors in mid-2010.

Former Hercules Gas Plant Site Remediation



Hercules Gas Plant in 1989



View from Upper Canyon



Fill Pad Slope

Project Description

The site is designated as a State Superfund site and is being remediated for PCBs, mercury, and hydrocarbons.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency. The Energy Division works with DTSC through the Interagency Workgroup Team. Shell is the Responsible Party.

Background

Located in Canada de la Huerta, which is adjacent to Tajiguas landfill, the site once housed facilities for processing natural gas produced from subsea wells in the Molino Offshore field.

A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was approved in 1994. Remediation was found to be unsuccessful due to the continued presence of PCBs. The RAP is currently being reviewed for further cleanup options and will be amended by approximately 2014.

Key Issues

An Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) is currently being conducted to determine remediation goals for the upper and lower canyons. The ERA is expected to be completed in late 2010.

The fill pad slope is currently stabilized and protected to prevent erosion through the use of sandbags, heavy plastic lining, swales and other temporary measures.

A Coastal Development Permit to complete remediation and stabilization of the fill pad slope was approved in August 2009 and may be issued as early as October 14 if no appeals are filed. Limited drainage work is planned for late October. The major work will be conducted in late spring and summer 2010.

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Project Status

- The application was found complete on July 2, 2009.
- Staff is currently completing an initial study to determine the scope of environmental review.

Lompoc Wind Energy Project

Applicant: Pacific Renewable Energy Generation LLC, subsidiary of Acciona Wind Energy USA.

Project Description: Commercial wind farm south of Lompoc on 2,950 acres, sited on ridges adjacent to Vandenberg AFB. The 65 wind generation turbines would be up to 397 feet tall from base to blade tip. Maximum electric generation would be 97.5 megawatts, producing 285 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power 50,000 homes. A new power line will run from the project site to a PG&E substation in Lompoc. Construction is expected to begin by late 2009. The target date for commercial operations is the end of 2010 with an estimated 30-year project life.

Project Status: Project was approved by the Planning Commission Sept. 30, 2008. An appeal was denied and the project was approved by the Board on Feb. 10, 2009.

Key Issues:

- Major source of clean energy
- Appeal Points
 - Biology (bird and bat fatalities)
 - Visual (ridgeline location)
 - Noise (rotor noise)
- Lawsuit filed over CEQA adequacy and CUP approval. A hearing is scheduled for March 2010.



View of western area of project site, near VAFB property line.

