

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING)
AMENDMENTS TO THE SANTA BARBARA)
COASTAL PLAN AND COASTAL ZONING)
ORDINANCE FOR SITING GAS PROCESSING)
FACILITIES IN THE NORTH COUNTY)
CONSOLIDATION PLANNING AREA)

RESOLUTION NO. 90-176
Case Nos. 89-GP-08cz
89-OA-11cz

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

A. On January 7, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-12, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Santa Barbara County Coastal Plan.

B. It is now deemed in the interest of the orderly development of the County and important to the preservation of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the County to make the following changes to the Local Coastal Program as follows:

1. Amend Chapter 3.6, Industrial and Energy Development, by amending Subsection 3.6.4, Land Use Plan Proposals, with a modification to the first paragraph under Oil and Gas Processing Facilities to read (added language is shown in italics, and deleted language is crossed out):

The County currently has twelve oil and gas processing facilities located in the coastal zone, two of which are not in operation (Texaco--St. Augustine and Texaco--Gaviota). Eight of these facilities process oil and gas from offshore fields and are therefore coastal dependent (Union--Pt. Conception, ARCO--Gaviota, Chevron--Gaviota, Shell--Molino, Phillips--Tajiguas, POPCO--Las Flores Canyon, ARCO--Dos Pueblos, and ARCO--Ellwood). Although somewhat lower than previously anticipated, production forecasts in 1986 continue to indicate that offshore oil and gas production will increase considerably above historic levels, possibly peaking during the mid-1990s and perhaps again sometime after year 2000. (Revised 12/14/87, B/S Resol. 87-616.)

The associated demand to develop onshore processing facilities requires a special planning focus to address long-term land use and environmental management concerns. The coastal zone area west of the City of Santa Barbara to Point Arguello is expected to be most affected by increased oil and gas production offshore. ~~Consequently~~ This area plus a parallel strip of land outside of the coastal zone has been designated as the South Coast Consolidation Planning Area (SCCPA). *The second area which may be more affected in the future is the coastal zone from Point Arguello north to the Santa Barbara County -- San Luis Obispo County boundary. This area plus a large segment of land east of the coastal zone has been designated as the North County Consolidation Planning Area (NCCPA).* Such designations allow the County to focus policies on reducing the proliferation of oil and gas processing facilities *according to the particular characteristics of each area.* (Revised 12/14/87, B/S Resol. 87-616.)

2. Amend Chapter 3.6, Industrial and Energy Development, by amending Subsection 3.6.4, Land Plan Proposals, by modifying the seventh paragraph under Oil and Gas Processing Facilities to read (added language is shown in italics, deleted language is crossed out):

Where

Existing areas currently in coastal dependent oil and gas development are designated as Coastal Dependent Industry in the land use plan. For areas outside of the South Coast Consolidation Planning Area (as defined in Policy 6-6B below), ~~oil and gas processing facilities are encouraged to expand within these existing processing sites rather than opening of new sites~~ *siting of oil and gas processing facilities should be conducted in a manner that optimizes public safety, environmental protection, and the benefits of consolidation to the maximum extent feasible.* Within the South Coast Consolidation Planning Area, the County has designated Las Flores Canyon and Gaviota as consolidated oil and gas processing sites to minimize te industrialization of the South Coast. The land use designation for these two sites is Coastal Dependent Industry. (Revised 12/14/87, B/S Resol. 87-616.)

3. Amend Chapter 3.6, Industrial and Energy Development, by amending Policy 6-6B to read (added language is shown in italics):

Except for facilities not directly related to oil and gas processing as referenced in Policy 6-11B (Marine Terminals), this policy applies to areas of the coastal zone that are outside the South Coast Consolidation Planning Area (SCCPA). The SCCPA is the unincorporated area from Point Arguello to the western boundary of the City of Santa Barbara, and from the ridge of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the three-mile offshore limit. (Added 12/14/87, B/S Resol. 87-616.)

If new sites for processing facilities to serve offshore oil and gas development are needed, expansion of facilities on existing sites or on land adjacent to existing sites shall take precedence over opening up additional areas, unless it can be shown that the environmental impacts of opening up a new site are less than the impacts of expansion on or adjacent to existing sites. Consideration shall also be given to economic feasibility.

Due to estimated oil and gas reserve located offshore in the Santa Maria Basin, the County conducted a study entitled, Siting Gas Processing Facilities: Screening and Siting Criteria. That study is incorporated herein by reference to guide the comprehensive analysis of alternative sites for the purposes of optimizing public safety, environmental protection, and the benefits of consolidation should the County received an application for a Development Plan to construct or expand a facility in the North County Consolidation Planning Area for treating or processing either onshore or offshore gas production.

4. Amend Santa Barbara County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, per the Ordinance attached as Exhibit A;

C. The Planning Commission of the County of Santa Barbara, after having held duly noticed public hearings on the above described amendments, have endorsed and transmitted to this Board said recommended amendments by its Resolution No. 90-8, pursuant to Government Code §65355.

D. This Board has held duly noticed public hearings on these above described amendments as required by Government Code §65355.

E. These amendments to the Local Coastal Program are consistent with the provisions of the Coastal Act of 1976.

F. This Board now wishes to submit these amendments to the California Coastal Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitations are true
2. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code §65357, the above described changes in the Local Coastal Program of the County of Santa Barbara are adopted as an amendment to the above mentioned Coastal Plan and Coastal Zoning Ordinance text.
3. This Board certified that these amendments are intended to be carried out in a manner fully in conformity with the said California Coastal Act.
4. In adopting these amendments, the Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the amendments and the siting study which they incorporate:
 - a. Contribute significantly towards minimizing adverse impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare, and to the environment. Given the potential for development of oil and gas in the future, proper siting of processing facilities is key to reducing public risk and environmental damage. Proper siting of gas processing near production sites can substantially reduce the risks of sour gas transportation by minimizing pipeline length and eliminating routes near current or future populated areas. Proper siting can also ensure that the plant equipment poses no risk to populations that cannot be quickly evacuated or effectively sheltered in-place -- an objective which can be realistically achieved since the North County Consolidation Planning Area is relatively large and predominantly rural, considering current land use and future growth scenarios. Risks can be further reduced by siting the facility on stable soils away from fault zones and that are prone to flooding, etc.

Environmental impacts associated with the construction and operations of gas processing facilities can be substantially minimized by avoiding sites with or near known biological sensitivity, including but not limited to environmentally sensitive habitats, including wetlands. Additionally, impacts are minimized by avoiding sites that may create odor impacts on adjacent or downwind neighbors (considering prevailing winds); by selecting sites outside of scenic travel corridors and preferring sites which have low scenic quality and visibility to the public; by avoiding sites with topographic characteristics that suggest reasonable likelihood of clusters of cultural resources or sites with known concentrations of Native American sensitive resources, or sites near a "unique" archaeological or cultural resource; by providing adequate buffers between processing facilities and watercourses, by preferring sites with adequate water supplies.

Advanced planning can help to guide proper site selection by providing screening and siting criteria that address public health and safety, environmental impacts, and compatibility with surrounding land uses and preservation of prime agriculture.

b. Contribute significantly towards minimizing industrialization in the North County Consolidation Planning Area and achieve more orderly development pursuant to sound land-use planning principles by furthering consolidation of oil and gas processing facilities and sites if such development is approved in the future.

c. Encourage current and future producers of oil and gas that is processed or may be processed in the North County Consolidation Planning Area to work together in presenting to the county a comprehensive plan for processing production that meets the goals stated in 1 and 2 above.

d. Constitute actions taken by a local government to ensure comprehensive alternative-sites analysis by establishing criteria designed to enhance public safety and environmental protection throughout the design and environmental review of a proposed gas processing facility, including the expansion of existing facilities in the North County Consolidation Planning Area.

e. Do not preclude or supercede the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act or the National Environmental Policy Act to a specific proposal by an applicant to construct a new gas processing facility or expand an existing gas processing facility.

f. Are subject, in accordance with findings 4 and 5 above and with Exhibit B (attached), to a CEQA Class 8 Exemption as an action to protect public safety and the environment from adverse impacts.

g. Are in the best interest of the general community welfare by providing provisions for optimizing public safety and environmental protection as described in finding 1 above.

h. Are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the Local Coastal Program, the requirements of California planning and zoning laws, and the Article II and III Zoning Ordinances, and that all public hearing and noticing requirements have been met.

i. Are consistent with good zoning and planning practices, particularly by facilitating a process and methodology for conducting a comprehensive analysis of alternative sites if and when a new or expanded gas processing facility is proposed in the North County Consolidation Planning Area.

5. The Board submits these Local Coastal Program amendments to the California Coastal Commission for review and certification.

6. The Chairman and the Clerk of this Board are hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all maps, documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to show the above mentioned action by the Board of Supervisors.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 20th day of March, 1990, by the following vote:

AYES: GLORIA OCHOA, THOMAS A. ROGERS, WILLIAM B. WALLACE, DIANNE OWEN,
TORU MIYOSHI

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTENTION: NONE



Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
State of California

ATTEST:

ZANDRA CHOLMONDELEY
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: Robert Cohen
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID NAWI
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Allen Satt
Deputy

EXHIBIT A

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING DIVISIONS 2 AND 9 OF
ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 35 OF THE
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 35-58,
DEFINITIONS, TO ADD NORTH COUNTY CONSOLIDATION PLANNING
AREA; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 35-154, BY
ADDING NEW FINDINGS

Case No. 89-OA-11(cz)

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara ordains as follows:

SECTION 1:

Section 35-58, Definitions, of Division 2 of Article II of Chapter 35 of the Santa Barbara County Code, is hereby amended to add a definition of North County Consolidation Planning Area to read:

NORTH COUNTY CONSOLIDATION PLANNING AREA (NCCPA) - A planning area for oil and gas development in the western portion of Santa Barbara County, defined by the following boundaries: the Santa Barbara County -- San Luis Obispo County boundary to the north, the three-mile offshore limit line to the west, the ridge of the Santa Ynez Mountains to the south, and to the east, U.S. 101 north to CA 154, following CA 154 east to CA 176, following CA 176 north until it turns in a generally northwesterly direction, due east to the Los Padres National Forest just south of Lookout Mountain, following the Los Padres National Forest boundary north to the Santa Barbara County northern boundary.

SECTION 2:

Section 35-154, Onshore Processing Facilities Necessary or Related to Offshore Oil and Gas Development, of Division 9 of Article II of Chapter 35 of the Santa Barbara County Code is hereby amended by adding to Subsection 35-154.4A, *Findings Required for Approval of Development Plans Outside the South Coast Consolidation Planning Area*, finding (e) to read:

(e) Gas processing facilities proposed in the North County Consolidation Planning Area (NCCPA), including expansion of existing facilities, have been sited in accordance with criteria set forth in Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Plan study entitled, *Siting Gas Processing Facilities*. Additionally, sites are selected with adequate consideration of all future gas processing needs in the NCCPA to optimize siting and consolidation strategies. The "expansion" of an existing facility shall mean any structural modification, alteration, expansion or enlargement which results in increased facility capacity, or

changes in facility use, operation, or other limitations imposed by permit or other law. The "expansion" of an existing facility shall also mean introduction of production from a field not served by the processing facility since January 1, 1986, or from any new production well that increases the current areal extent of a field presently served by the facility. Expansion shall not include modification to existing facilities that is required to comply with current health and safety standards, regulations, codes.

SECTION 3:

Except as amended by this ordinance, Section(s) 35-58 and 35-154 of Article II, of Chapter 35, of the Code of the County of Santa Barbara, California, shall remain unchanged and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 4:

This ordinance and any portion of it approved by the Coastal Commission shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the date of its passage or upon the date that it is certified by the Coastal Commission pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 30514, whichever occurs later; and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it, or a summary of it, shall be published once, together with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same in the Santa Barbara News-Press, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 20th day of March, 1990, by the following vote:

- AYES: GLORIA OCHOA, THOMAS A. ROGERS, WILLIAM B. WALLACE,
DIANNE OWENS, TORU MIYOSHI
- NOES: NONE
- ABSENT: NONE
- ABSTENTIONS: NONE

Thomas A. Rogers

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
of the County of Santa Barbara
State of California

ATTEST:

ZANDRA CHOLMONDELEY
Clerk of the Board

By *Robert Cohen*
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID NAWI
County Counsel

By *Alan Sett*
Deputy County Counsel

EXHIBIT B



County of Santa Barbara

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

John Patton, Director

TO: Board of Supervisors
Planning Commission

FROM: Jeffrey T. Harris, Deputy Director *JTH*
Division of Environmental Review and Compliance

DATE: 9/13/89

RE: Finding that CEQA Section 15308 (Class 8 CEQA Exemption) is Applicable to
89-GP-08(cz), 89-OA-11(cz), 89-GP-09, and 89-OA-12

Discussion

The proposed amendments to the Coastal Land Use Plan, Coastal Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan and Article III Zoning Ordinance prescribe policies and standards for siting a gas processing facility in the North County Consolidation Planning Area. The thrust of the amendments is to require comprehensive alternative sites analyses if and when a gas processing facility is proposed. Specifically, the amendments prescribe screening and siting criteria to ensure that issues of public health and safety, and maximum feasible environmental protection are addressed during site analyses and selection. The amendments do not preclude the normal process for project-specific environmental review upon application to construct and operate a gas processing facility and ancillary facilities.

Finding

The above-noted amendments are deemed to be actions taken by a regulatory agency to assure comprehensive alternative sites analyses based upon criteria designed to enhance public safety and environmental protection for future applications to construct and operate gas processing facilities. Each future project subject to these amendments will receive individual environmental review. As such, a CEQA Class 8 Exemption is appropriate for the noted amendments.

DKA:aw:9929E