

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING AN)
AMENDMENT TO THE SANTA BARBARA)
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND)
ARTICLE III ZONING ORDINANCE)
RELATIVE TO SCREENING AND SITING)
CRITERIA FOR GAS PROCESSING)
FACILITIES)

RESOLUTION NO. 90-7
CASE NOS. 89-GP-09
AND 89-OA-12

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. On December 20, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-566, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan; and subsequently;
1. The Board of Supervisors directed the Resource Management Department to conduct a siting study for a consolidated gas processing facility in an onshore area adjacent to the offshore Santa Maria Basin which has been leased by the U.S. Department of the Interior for the purpose of exploring and developing oil and gas reserves; and
 2. The Resource Management Department, in consultation with representatives from San Luis Obispo County, the Cities of Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Guadalupe, the California Division of Oil and Gas, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Unocal Corp., Shell Western E&P, Inc., Conoco, Inc., the Santa Barbara County-Cities Area Planning Council, the Santa Barbara County Petroleum Office, and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, has conducted the aforementioned study, producing a list of screening and siting criteria for gas processing facilities in a geographic area called the North County Consolidation Planning Area (NCCPA); and

- B. In making the recommendations contained in this Resolution to the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission's intentions are to ensure that any proposal which requires approval of a Development Plan to develop a site for gas processing in the NCCPA undergo a comprehensive siting analysis to determine which site best achieves the following goals:
1. Minimizes significantly adverse impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare, and to the environment through selection of the most appropriate site; and
 2. Minimizes industrialization in the NCCPA and achieves more orderly development pursuant to sound land-use planning principles by optimizing consolidation of oil and gas processing facilities and sites; and
 3. Encourages current and future producers of oil and gas that is processed currently, or may be processed in the future, in the NCCPA to work together in presenting to the County a comprehensive plan for processing production that meets the intentions stated in B.1 and B.2 above; and
- C. The Planning Commission finds as follows:
1. That the amendments recommended below constitute actions taken by a regulatory agency to assure comprehensive alternate-sites analysis by establishing criteria designed to enhance public safety and environmental protection throughout the design and environmental review stages of a gas processing facility proposed in the NCCPA; and
 2. That each project proposal subject to these amendments will receive individual environmental review pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the National

Environmental Policy Act; and

3. That, as such, a Class 8 Exemption provided in Section 15308 in the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, is appropriate for the amendments proposed below as recommended by the County's Environmental Hearing Officer in Exhibit A attached; and
- D. It is now deemed in the interest of orderly development of the County and important to the preservation of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of said County to adopt an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element, and the Article III (inland) Zoning Ordinance as specified below.
 - 1(a) Amend "Other Definitions" under "Land Use Definitions" by adding the definition "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 Santa Ynez Mountain ridge line to the south, and to the east, U.S. 101 north to CA 154, east along CA 154 to CA 176, north along CA 176 until it turns in a general northwesterly direction, east to the Los Padres National Forest boundary just south of Lookout Mountain, north along the National Forest boundary to the County line. Maps of this oil and gas consolidation planning area are provided in the siting study incorporated into this element under Land Use Development Policy #11.

1(b) In the text, amend the "Land Use Development Policies" under "Goals and Policies" by adding a new paragraph 11 to read:

11. For the purpose of ensuring safe, orderly, and planned development of oil and gas resources, the Board of Supervisors designates the northwestern and midwestern portion of the county as the North County Consolidation Planning Area, or NCCPA (as defined under the section "Other Definitions" in this element) and subjects oil and gas development in this planning area to the following policies:

A. Due to estimated oil and gas reserves located offshore, the County has prepared a study entitled Siting Gas Processing Facilities: Screening & Siting Criteria. That study is incorporated herein by reference to guide a comprehensive analysis of alternative sites should the county receive an application for a Development Plan to construct or expand a facility in the NCCPA for treating or processing either onshore or offshore gas production. The criteria are designed to optimize public safety, environmental protection, and the benefits of consolidation.

2. Amend the Santa Barbara County Zoning Ordinance, Article III, per the ordinance attached as Exhibit B, with the following findings made pursuant to Section 35-325.5 of said zoning ordinance:

(a) The criteria prescribed for selecting gas processing sites are in the interest of the

general community welfare by providing provisions for comprehensive analysis of alternative sites, to optimize public safety, environmental protection, and the benefits of consolidation; and

(b) The amendment is found to be consistent with the General Plan, the requirements of California planning and zoning laws, and Article III Zoning Ordinance, and that all public hearing and noticing requirements have been met; and

(c) The amendment is found to be consistent with good zoning and planning practices, particularly by facilitating a process and methodology for conducting a comprehensive analysis of alternative sites; and

- E. Public officials and agencies, civic organizations, and citizens have been consulted on and have advised the Planning Commission on the said proposed amendments.
- F. This Commission has held a duly noticed public hearing, as required by Section 65353 of the Government Code, on the proposed amendments, at which hearing the amendments were explained and comments invited from the persons in attendance.
- G. As a result of the public hearing, the Planning Commission has approved 4 revisions to the siting study entitled, *Siting Gas Processing Facilities: Screening and Siting Criteria*, as outlined in the Staff Report to the Planning Commission dated October 31, 1989.

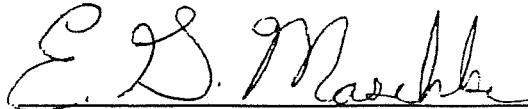
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 8th day of February 1990, by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON, SOLLEN, MASCHKE, WACK

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BENEDICT

ABSTENTIONS: NONE



Edward G. Maschke, Chair
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission

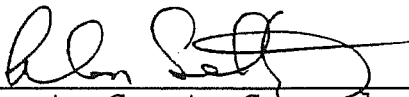
ATTEST:



Albert J. McCurdy
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAVID NAWI
County Counsel

By 
Deputy County Counsel

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