

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

RESOLUTION NO. 90-8
CASE NOS. 89-GP-08(cz)
and 89-OA-11(cz)

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

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

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 Coastal Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance as specified below.
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 (new language represented in italics):

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 Use Plan Proposals, by modifying the seventh paragraph under Oil and Gas Processing Facilities to read (new language represented in italics):

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 the 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 (new language represented 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 reserves 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 receive 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 Coastal Zoning Ordinance, Article II, per the Ordinance attached as Exhibit B:
 - E. Public officials and agencies, civic organizations, and citizens have been consulted on and have advised the Planning Commission on the said proposed amendments; and
 - 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; and
 - G. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission approved 4 revisions to the siting study entitled, *Siting of Gas Processing Facilities: Screening & Siting Criteria*, as

outlined in the Staff Report to the Planning Commission dated October 31, 1989.

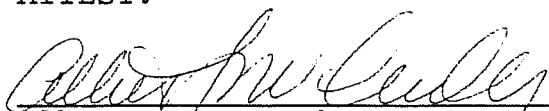
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 8th day of February, 1990, by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON, SOLLEN, MASCHKE AND WACK
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BENEDICT
ABSENTIONS: NONE



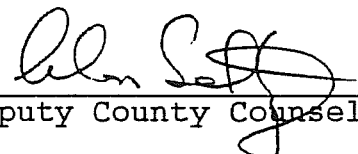
Edward G. Maschke, Chair
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission

ATTEST:


Albert J. McCurdy
Secretary of the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

David Nawi
County Counsel

By 
Deputy County Counsel

NO 80-12.RSN