

Exxon Mobil's Plan to Drill in Santa Barbara County

Exxon Mobil is applying for a permit to truck offshore oil, effectively restarting 3 offshore oil rigs, turning on the largest greenhouse gas emitting pumping facility in the county, and increasing the county's risk of dangerous oil tanker accidents.

Why is Exxon pursuing this permit?

- Exxon Mobil owns and operates three of the oil platforms off the shore of Santa Barbara County ([Heritage](#), [Harmony](#), [Hondo](#)). Their oil, transported by pipeline under the ocean to reach shore, used to be pumped up the Gaviota Coast by Plains All American's pipeline Line 901 to reach the Sisquoc pump station.
- Plains' corroded coastal oil pipeline burst in May 2015 north of Santa Barbara, spilling over 120,000 gallons of crude, killing hundreds of marine mammals and seabirds and blackening local beaches for miles.
- The 2015 pipeline rupture forced seven aging offshore drilling platforms to shut down. Four of those old platforms are being decommissioned — including Platform Holly — but ExxonMobil is making an aggressive push to bring the other three back online by trucking oil while they wait for Plains to rebuild its risky coastal pipeline.
- It also effectively shut down the Las Flores Canyon pump station as there was no more oil to pump -- prior to the 2015 pipeline burst, **Las Flores was the single largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the county.**

What All This Means

Exxon wants to get oil flowing from their offshore platforms again – via pipeline or trucking. As a pipeline permit could take years to be approved, Exxon (proud owner of the remaining offshore platforms) has applied for permits to truck offshore oil along that stretch of coastline.

The trucking permit would allow:

- **70 tanker trucks every day, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**
- Trucks would traverse Highway 101 and Route 166 (the former being the only northbound evacuation route out of Santa Barbara, the latter being a highly windy and in some parts residential route)

What's at Risk

This is about more than trucking--this would bring three oil rigs back online and turn on the single highest greenhouse gas emitting facility in the county.

- Approving the permit would allow for 3 offshore oil rigs to come back online: Platform Hondo, Platform Harmony, and Platform Heritage, all owned by Exxon
- The EIR must address emissions from all operations that would commence due to the trucking permit: namely, the restart of the three offshore platforms and processing plant, as well as the impacts from the trucking.