



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 12, 2011

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CALIFORNIA COAST PROTECTED FROM OIL BARGING *Environmental Groups Successfully Advocate for Pipeline Approval*

SANTA BARBARA, CA – Environmental groups celebrated today, following final approval of a pipeline project that will replace oil barging off the coast of Santa Barbara County. The California Coastal Commission cast the final approval, following similar action by the County of Santa Barbara and City of Goleta. As a result, Venoco, Inc. expects to commence construction of the pipeline this fall and cease barging in the spring.

“Our community has worked so long and so hard to protect our coast from the risks and harms of offshore oil and gas development,” said Linda Krop, Chief Counsel of the Environmental Defense Center and attorney for Get Oil Out (GOO!), Los Padres Sierra Club, Citizens for Goleta Valley (CGV) and Citizens Planning Association (CPA). “By stopping barging from the Ellwood project, we will protect the majority of the California coast, from San Francisco to Long Beach.”

Venoco is the last oil producer in the State to transport its oil to refineries by marine barge rather than onshore pipeline. Currently, Venoco’s barge delivers oil from its Ellwood Project near the City of Goleta to refineries in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. Environmental groups, joined by local and state agencies, have urged Venoco to transport its oil by pipeline since 1997, when the company took over operations of the Ellwood Field offshore UC Santa Barbara.

“We are overjoyed to finally end oil barging off the coast,” exclaimed Abe Powell, President of GOO!. “The Coastal Commission’s action will result in a tremendous benefit to the California coast.”

“The Sierra Club has worked for many years to protect our coast from the risk of oil spills and air pollution, and we applaud our local and state agencies for putting an end to harmful oil barging,” said Gerry Ching, Chair of the Los Padres Sierra Club Steering Committee.

“Venoco is the last oil producer in the State of California to barge its oil instead of using safer onshore pipelines,” pronounced Mike Wondolowski, President of CGV. “It’s about time that we protect our community and our coast from the risks of offshore oil barging.”

“Ending oil barging protects our residents from air pollution, noxious odors, and the risk of an oil spill,” noted Steve Dunn, President of CPA.

The Coastal Commission’s approval followed approvals by the County of Santa Barbara on August 3 and the City of Goleta on August 22. During the public review process, the environmental groups worked with the agencies and Venoco to increase protections for coastal drainages and wetlands that occur within the pipeline route. Venoco will now submit final plans and commence construction prior to the rainy season.

For more information, please see attached letter from EDC to the California Coastal Commission and <http://www.countyofsb.org/energy/projects/VenocoLine96.asp>;

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The Environmental Defense Center protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action and works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Since 1977, EDC has empowered community based organizations to advance environmental protection. Program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open spaces and wildlife, and human and environmental health.

Get Oil Out! is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to protect the natural environment and beauty of the Santa Barbara Channel from the adverse effects of oil development.

Citizens Planning Association is a non-profit corporation formed in 1960 dedicated to defending the County’s natural resources and upholding the County’s planning policies and objectives.

Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Inspired by nature, we are 1.4 million of your friends and neighbors, working together to protect our communities and the planet.

Citizens for Goleta Valley is a grass-roots organization that promotes comprehensive planning to help build healthy communities. CGV is active in monitoring oil and gas extraction in Santa Barbara County to ensure that it is developed with as few impacts on our quality of life as possible.