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STATEMENT ON THE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLAINS OIL SPILL

May 19, 2016

Thank you all for being here as we mark one year from the Plains Oil Spill over our precious Gaviota Coast.

While I cannot be with you today in person, please know that I am with you in spirit. This week's anniversary is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with fossil fuels – a danger that the Central Coast knows all too well.

From the Platform A oil spill in 1969 to and last year's Plains Pipeline failure, we in Santa Barbara know far too well the impact of oil spills on our local environment and economy.

But as we know, no community is immune—there are many others at risk who don't know it.

It is easy to forget that our nation has millions of miles of pipelines transporting oil and gas throughout our country

Time and time again, we've seen oil and gas pipelines fail, causing irreparable harm to lives, property, and the environment.

The fact is that it is a matter of when - not if – a fossil fuel accident will occur.

As a policymaker, I believe we have a duty to learn from these past incidents so that we can minimize the risk and impact of the next spill and protect the surrounding communities.

That is why I've spent the last year working with Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone to draft bipartisan federal pipeline safety legislation, H.R. 5050, the Pipeline Safety Act.

The bill includes lessons learned from the Plains spill, including:

- An analysis of risk factors that, if present, would require more frequent integrity inspections;
- Clarification that all coastal beaches qualify as high consequence areas;
- And a study to look at the causes and best ways to prevent pipeline corrosion.

While it is by no means perfect, H.R. 5050 is an important step forward to improve pipeline safety across the country, and I am proud of the work we have done to pass the Pipeline Safety Act out of the Energy and Commerce with strong bipartisan support.

And while there is still a long way to go, I am very hopeful that we can get this bill to the President's desk this year.

Thank you again for being here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Capps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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& WATER
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS

A year ago today, on my birthday, a severely corroded onshore oil pipeline ruptured, spilling thousands of gallons of oil into the waters off Refugio State Beach. It was the worst birthday present I have ever received.

We cannot and will not forget what we experienced in the days following that rupture: a half-mile slick of crude oil along our coast, the stench of petroleum, oil-drenched birds, hundreds of holiday visitors sent home, and a beach transformed into a toxic clean-up site.

The beach has re-opened and the immediate clean-up efforts are finished, but key questions remain unanswered about the full extent of the spill's damage to our environment and economy. And our distrust and anger -- for oil development and Big Oil, for the Texas company that operates the pipeline, Plains All-American -- remain strong to this day.

The Refugio Oil Spill gave us an opportunity to make progress collectively, and we did make progress. Line 901, which was subject to federal oversight, went from slightly corroded to a rupture in the space of just two years, making it clear that greater oversight and inspection of our pipelines was critically needed. I authored a bill that was signed into law, Senate Bill 295, to ensure annual pipeline inspections by the State Fire Marshal for pipelines under state oversight.

If and when line 901 resumes operation, we must ensure that it falls under tighter state regulations and inspections.

I also authored legislation to ensure better response to oil spills by requiring the state to investigate new technologies for clean-up. But the legislation we passed and the progress we made in no way signals that our work is done.

As long as we rely on oil, no law, regulation, or inspection schedule will fully safeguard against the next spill. Oil is dirty, dangerous and destructive. If we drill, there will be spills. Last year, California made significant progress toward more renewable energy and energy efficiency by passing Senate Bill 350. But Big Oil successfully beat back a provision of the legislation that would have cut our state's petroleum use in half and continues to spend millions to influence policy decision-making every year.

The voices for a future free of fossil fuel need to grow louder and more insistent. As we mark a year since the Refugio Oil Spill, our resolve to reduce our dependence on oil must remain strong.



**Statement from Assemblymember Das Williams
on the One Year Anniversary of the Refugio Oil Spill
May 19, 2016**

A year ago today marked one of the most tragic environmental disasters in the history of our state, with an impact that we may never fully know. At least 79 sea lions and dolphins were killed and hundreds of birds and marine species were oiled and damaged.

But from those environmental ashes, we stand together today with hope and optimism that a spill of this magnitude should never happen again.

First, I am pleased the Grand Jury is holding Plains accountable. I commend local, state and federal law enforcement for working hard over the past year to investigate the spill and compile the evidence that led to this indictment.

When tragic events like this happen, those responsible should be held accountable for their actions, whether deliberate or neglectful. This matter is now in the hands of the legal system and I am confident that justice will prevail.

But even with this legal action on our side, we can't let up in our commitment to battling the proliferation of oil drilling on the Central Coast. In Sacramento I have worked to pass legislation that seeks to hold pipeline operators accountable.

My bill, Assembly Bill 864, passed in the aftermath of last year's oil spill, now requires an operator of an oil pipeline along environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas near the coast to use the best available technology, such as automatic shut-off technology, to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill in order to protect state waters and wildlife.

Had Plains Pipeline been equipped with automatic shut off valves or remote controlled block valves, the impact of the oil spill could have been controlled and limited. Instead, we're left suffering from the negative effects to our environment and economy.

As we look back on this day, we must remember that California's coast and ocean are among our most treasured resources. The beauty and environmental sustainability found here is central to California's identity, heritage and economy.

California leads the nation and the world in coastal and wildlife protection and we must continue to fight for environmental responsibility and hold those who neglect our environment accountable.



**“One Year After the Devastating Plains All American Pipeline “Refugio Oil Spill”
Legislators and Leading Environmental Organizations Address Concerns and
Next Steps to Protect and Restore our Damaged Coast**

STATEMENT OF LINDA KROP, CHIEF COUNSEL

MAY 19, 2016

One year after the devastating Refugio Oil Spill, we have a lot to reflect upon. There are the things we mourn – the dead birds, dolphins, sea lions and other wildlife, the soiled beaches, the scars on our coast. There are the memories we can be proud of – how the community came together – residents, businesses, fishermen and women, tourists, and everyone who loves our beaches and ocean. There are the achievements that often follow a disaster – new laws, public awareness, and promises to be more vigilant in the future.

We are grateful that the State Attorney General and County District Attorney have filed criminal charges against Plains. Plains must be held accountable for the damage that has been done, and must redress any wrongdoing.

We also need to make sure that something like this doesn’t happen again. We need to make sure our beaches and our offshore waters remain free from more oil spills. We need to restore what’s been spoiled, and heal the environment and our community.

Thanks to local elected officials, we are on the path to a better future. Congresswoman Capps is working hard to improve federal laws, which proved ineffective at preventing this disaster. State Senator Jackson and Assemblymember Williams were successful in immediately passing new state laws to prevent another oil pipeline spill. Had these laws been in place, the Refugio Oil Spill from the All American Pipeline probably would not have happened, and even if

the pipeline had ruptured, the scope of the spill would have been much smaller and likely would not have reached the beach or the ocean.

The Environmental Defense Center is working to make sure that these new laws will apply when the All American Pipeline is back on line. Accordingly, we are asking the State of California to take over legal oversight for the Pipeline when it resumes operations. Since Earth Day, we have collected hundreds of postcards that we will submit to the State Fire Marshal.

We are also working, along with many other organization and entities, to make sure that our coast is fully restored to its pre-spill condition. Under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which was passed after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, state and federal trustee agencies are required to develop and implement a Restoration Plan as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. The trustees are engaged in the initial phase of the assessment, which will lead to a public process for determining the environmental harm caused by the spill and identifying actions that can be taken to mitigate for such harm and restore the environment.

This is an important step towards reversing the damage caused by the spill, and one of the few opportunities for the public to have a say in the response to the spill. The public is encouraged to take part in the NRDA process, and to sign up for alerts on our website, at www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org. Together we can heal from this tragedy and reclaim our coast.

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PO Box 23625 - Santa Barbara, CA 93121

My name is Michael Lyons and I am the current board president of Get Oil Out! Aka GOO!

GOO!'s mission over the last 48 years has been to eliminate the threat of oil spills in the Santa Barbara Channel and surrounding coastal regions by "getting oil out" of the Channel.

What happened in Santa Barbara County last year was a disaster. Our pristine Gaviota coast, which to us is just as grand and scenic as many of our National Parks, was coated with black, sticky, oily goo! Exactly what GOO! Stands AGAINST and why GOO! Exists!!

The harmful effects witnessed from this spill were not surprising, not new, not shocking nor anything that we, the local Santa Barbara community, or the world for that matter, has not seen before. Dead and oiled wildlife, oiled and closed beaches, ill human health effects from skin contact and the toxic odor, economic turmoil to: tourism, fisherman, employment, local taxes, families relocating; new laws and legislation being passed, loss of recreational opportunities to swimmers, surfers, fisherman, and beach goers. The list goes on...

At the time of the Refugio spill, the watchdog's eyes (being the government regulating agencies and groups such as GOO!) were seemingly diligent and focused on all dangerous and potentially harmful operations conducted by the oil companies that could threaten our coast and environment. With the watchdogs on full guard, eminent harm from an oil spill still found its way into our Channel. Whether it's a faulty casing - 69 Santa Barbara spill, a drunken tanker captain in Valdez-Alaska oil spill, an explosion in the BP New Horizon Gulf or a leaking pipeline, the oil industry has proven many times over that spills not only go hand in hand with oil production, but are also virtually impossible to predict as to when and how they will occur, even with the most attentive watchdogs holding guard. We have learned that it's not if but when...

So how can we be prepared for the next oil spill?...

Careful monitoring of every aspect of oil production - no stones unturned; game planning and drills for cleanup activities between government agencies, oil companies, non-profit groups and citizens for the next spill.

Will it ever be possible to prevent oil spill disasters and catastrophes?...

Yes, but only if we Get Oil Out!

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One Year After the Plains All American Pipeline Spill
May 19, 2016 Press Conference

Kira Redmond, Executive Director, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
Tel: (805) 563-3377 ext.1; Email: kira@sbck.org



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is glad to be here today to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Plains All American Oil Spill with the others here who've done so much in the past year to help our community move forward and learn and act upon the valuable lessons the spill taught us.

A year after the spill, our work is just beginning. Channelkeeper is working to help hold Plains accountable, improve spill response, reduce the likelihood and impact of future spills, ensure better communication with the public, and collect data to help identify and respond to future spills.

We teamed up with the EDC to demand information from federal agencies about inspections and oversight of the pipeline that ruptured through the Freedom of Information Act, and filed suit against the agencies when they failed to provide the information in the time required by law. The suits aim to shed light on what went wrong on Line 901 and to increase the transparency of federal oversight over the many pipelines that criss-cross our region.

Channelkeeper is also contributing to "lessons learned" debriefings with response agencies to provide recommendations on ways to improve future response performance. For one, communication with the public was extremely lacking during the Refugio spill response, so we're advocating for greater transparency and information flow during future spills. We've also been participating in meetings of the LA/Long Beach Area Committee to ensure that lessons learned from the Refugio spill are incorporated into our region's oil spill contingency plan.

Another lesson learned was the need to be able to differentiate tar balls attributable to the spill from those attributable to natural seeps, so Channelkeeper stepped up to develop a new tar ball monitoring program. We're now collecting standardized data on tar ball coverage, size, and characteristics on 16 beaches from Ventura to Gaviota on a quarterly basis in order to establish a baseline of what constitutes "normal" tar ball coverage on South Coast beaches from seeps. Our data, which we're sharing with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be extremely useful in informing the identification and clean-up of future spills.

We've also continued to participate as the non-governmental monitor in the Unified Command's follow-up tar ball fingerprinting in this final stage of the response effort, and will be tracking and weighing in on the NRDA process to support appropriate funding and projects to restore the damage caused by the Refugio spill.

Finally, Channelkeeper is working to generate support for Senator Jackson's SB 900 to cap leaking legacy wells along our coast, to oppose the Phillips 66 Oil Train proposal, to track and weigh in on Venoco's plans for oil at Ellwood and Carpinteria, and to keep watch to protect our precious coast from spills.

We're honored to work with the other groups and legislators here to help our environment and community recover from the horrific spill that occurred here one year ago today and to help prevent a similar tragedy from happening again.



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**“One Year After the Devastating Plains All American Pipeline “Refugio Oil Spill”
Legislators and Leading Environmental Organizations Address Concerns and Next Steps to
Protect and Restore our Damaged Coast**

May 19, 2016

***Statement of Katie Davis, Chair, Santa Barbara Sierra Club
On New oil threats for our coast***

The first threat I’d like to mention is the use of fracking and acidizing offshore, and lifting of the temporary ban on fracking currently in place. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management did a very cursory environmental review and has proposed to allow oil companies to resume offshore fracking, which includes dumping potentially toxic wastewater into the ocean.

Secondly, a new US President could open up new oil leases in federal waters off our coast. That’s one reason I want to thank Congresswoman Capps, Senator Jackson and Assembly member Williams for calling for NOAA to designate the “Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary” from Gaviota to Monterey. A new Marine Sanctuary would be phenomenal – and one thing it would do is permanently protect the central coast from offshore drilling.

And thirdly, I want to mention Venoco’s plans in Goleta, including drilling for oil on the beach. Many of us who live in Goleta were shocked by this. We’ve seen the historical pictures but didn’t think drilling on the beach was something we still did. Pier 421 near Haskell’s beach has been shut down since a spill there 20 years ago but Venoco would like to restart operations.

Venoco is also seeking to expand drilling into the Ellwood field. This would be horizontal drilling from Platform Holly along the Isla Vista coast. The irony is that this area was ceded to the state in exchange for drilling elsewhere. It would be quite a coup if they get it back.

Venoco would like to process this oil at the Ellwood Onshore Facility, an aging oil processing plant on the beach near the Bacara that has been out of zoning compliance for 25 years. The City of Goleta recently did an amortization study and found that it was fully amortized in 2009 and so the City has the legal right to set an end date for that facility. We hope they do so.

Ultimately, instead of drilling for oil offshore, which cannot be done safely, California should focus on building the clean energy economy of the future, and that’s the direction I hope we head.

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Katie Davis is Chair of the Santa Barbara Sierra Club and Vice-Chair of the Los Padres Chapter, serving Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. She also serves on the Air Pollution Control District Community Advisory Council and on the Sierra Club National Marine Action Team.



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Reaching a major solar milestone on the anniversary of the Refugio Oil Spill

For a community that defines itself by its beautiful coastline and environmental stewardship, the Refugio oil spill not only closed our beaches and caused over \$250 million in cleanup and damage claims, it also caused an identity crisis as we wrestle with the role of fossil fuels in our lives. While it is imperative that each of us make changes in our own behavior, it has become increasingly clear that what really needs to change is our energy system.

If there are any silver linings in these all-too-frequent industrial energy accidents, it's that – after 100 years of fossil fuels – a growing number of people are calling for an energy revolution. And we need that chorus, re-imagining a world built on more renewable energy such as wind, wave and solar power.

Within the next month, the tri-county region will have installed **one gigawatt of solar power**. That is enough electricity to power more than a quarter million homes.

The vast majority of this solar came online in the last 5 years -- that's how fast and how powerful this revolution has been.

About 80% of that is from two solar farms in the Carrizo Plain. Those two solar farms

- created over 1,100 construction jobs – most of them high-paying skilled union jobs.
- infused more than \$730 million into the local economy, including almost \$20 million in tax revenues

Within the next year, we hope to see construction begin on a third solar farm in the Cuyama Valley.

When we hit that one gigawatt next month, about 20% of it will be from rooftop and ground mounted solar.

- almost 24,000 homes in the tri-county region have installed solar, as have many large commercial buildings.
- Collectively these panels are saving local residents and businesses tens of millions of dollars in electricity costs.

So we can scrap the phrase “alternative energy,” as solar is clearly an entrenched, competitive, everyday reality for tens of thousands of people in the tri-counties

The question now isn't “how do we get renewable energy in our region?” but “how do we get more?”



One of the most effective tools we have is something called Community Choice Energy, where we can determine, as a region, where we want our electricity to come from.

While we would continue to use the utility lines to deliver that electricity, we could decide that we want have the option of 100% of it coming from locally-generated clean energy sources.

This tool gives us the power – literally – to chart our own energy future. It could also be a huge boon to the regional economy. Instead of your monthly utility payments going to support far-away utility shareholders, these dollars would stay in the community.

The counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo are studying the feasibility of Community Choice Energy.

The Community Environmental Council is now calling on the County of Santa Barbara to fund and develop a Community Choice Energy program, following the lead of 80 other California cities who are exploring a similar option.

You can sign on to support at www.SBCEnergyChoice.org.

Let us bring on the next gigawatt of solar.