



## COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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Friday, July 3, 2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Formal Emergency Permit Issued to Cleanup Refugio Oil Spill

On July 3, 2015 and pursuant to the County's Coastal Zoning Ordinance, the Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department issued a written Emergency Permit to Plains Pipeline LP for cleanup of the Refugio Oil Spill. The process for an Emergency Permit began on May 20, 2015 when the County gave verbal and written authorization to Plains Pipeline LP to begin cleanup operations. An Emergency Permit is granted to expedite cleanup operations and prevent further damage to public health and the environment more quickly than the customary permit process would allow.

The timeline of events to secure the Emergency Permit is outlined below:

- May 20, 2015 - Planning and Development provided verbal and written authorization to Plains Pipeline LP to begin cleanup operations.
- May 29, 2015 - Plains Pipeline LP submitted an incomplete Emergency Permit application to Planning and Development.
- June 5, 2015 - Planning and Development notified Plains Pipeline LP of the incomplete application and missing elements.
- June 20, 2015 - Plains Pipeline LP resubmitted a complete application.
- July 3, 2015 – After reviewing the complete application and public comment on the proposed emergency action, Planning and Development grants an Emergency Permit for cleanup operations.

The Emergency Permit process involves a quick assessment of proposed response and clean-up activities to allow for the timely initiation of cleanup from the oil spill. A customary permit follows an Emergency Permit. This customary permit fully evaluates the cleanup and restoration work to ensure compliance with County policies, standards, and the California Environmental Quality Act. The customary permit process, in this case a Coastal Development Permit with a hearing (CDH), will require preparation of an environmental document under CEQA. The County expects to coordinate the follow-on permit review with other local regulatory partners, including the city of Goleta and the California Coastal Commission. Plains Pipeline LP submitted an application for a CDH on June 24, 2015. This permit application is currently under review by Planning and Development. The public will have the opportunity to participate in the review of this application by commenting on the environmental document and providing comments to County decision makers.

To read the permit and attachments, visit [countyofsb.org/refugio](http://countyofsb.org/refugio).

Contact Dianne Black at [Dianne@countyofsb.org](mailto:Dianne@countyofsb.org) or (805) 568-2086 for further information.

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