



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Status Update on Oil and Gas Operations

Board of Directors

March 20, 2025

Aeron Arlin Genet

Executive Director / APCO

Kaitlin McNally

Compliance Division Manager

Our Mission

To protect the people and the
environment of Santa Barbara County
from the effects of air pollution.



Overview

- Background
- Onshore Operations
- Offshore Platforms
- Permit Program
- Inspections
- Enforcement
- Compliance Statistics
- Interagency Coordination
- Methane Emissions
- California Senate Bill 1137



Background

- **Federal Clean Air Act and California Health and Safety Code**
- **Permitted Oil and Gas Sources:**
 - Active, idle, and orphan wells
 - Oil and gas plants
 - Asphalt refinery
 - Oil and gas pump stations
 - Natural gas storage facility
 - Natural gas odorant & metering stations



Onshore Operations

- CalGEM plugged and abandoned 171 orphaned wells
 - 37 remain
- Ellwood Onshore Facility decommissioned
 - District permits cancelled
- Santa Maria Asphalt Refinery shut-in since 2021
 - Filed for bankruptcy in 2024
- Santa Ynez Unit Oil and Gas Plant shut-in
 - District permits are still in effect



Offshore Platforms

- **16 Platforms:**

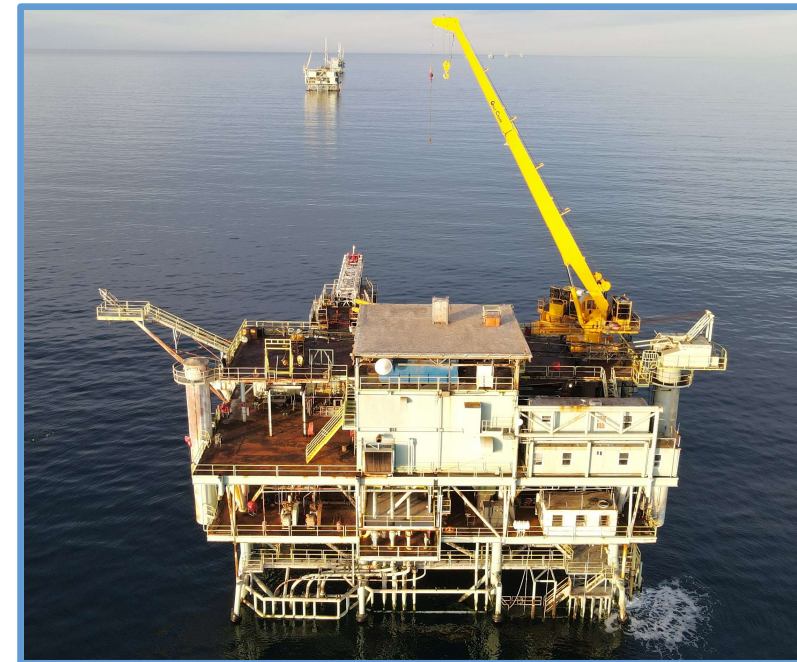
- 5 operational (A, B, C, Henry, Hillhouse)
- 4 shut-in, awaiting method to get oil to the market (Harmony, Heritage, Hondo, Irene)
- 7 being decommissioned (Habitat, Harvest, Hermosa, Hidalgo, Hogan, Holly, Houchin)

- **Platform Holly plugged and abandoned**

- Platform decommissioning will follow environmental review

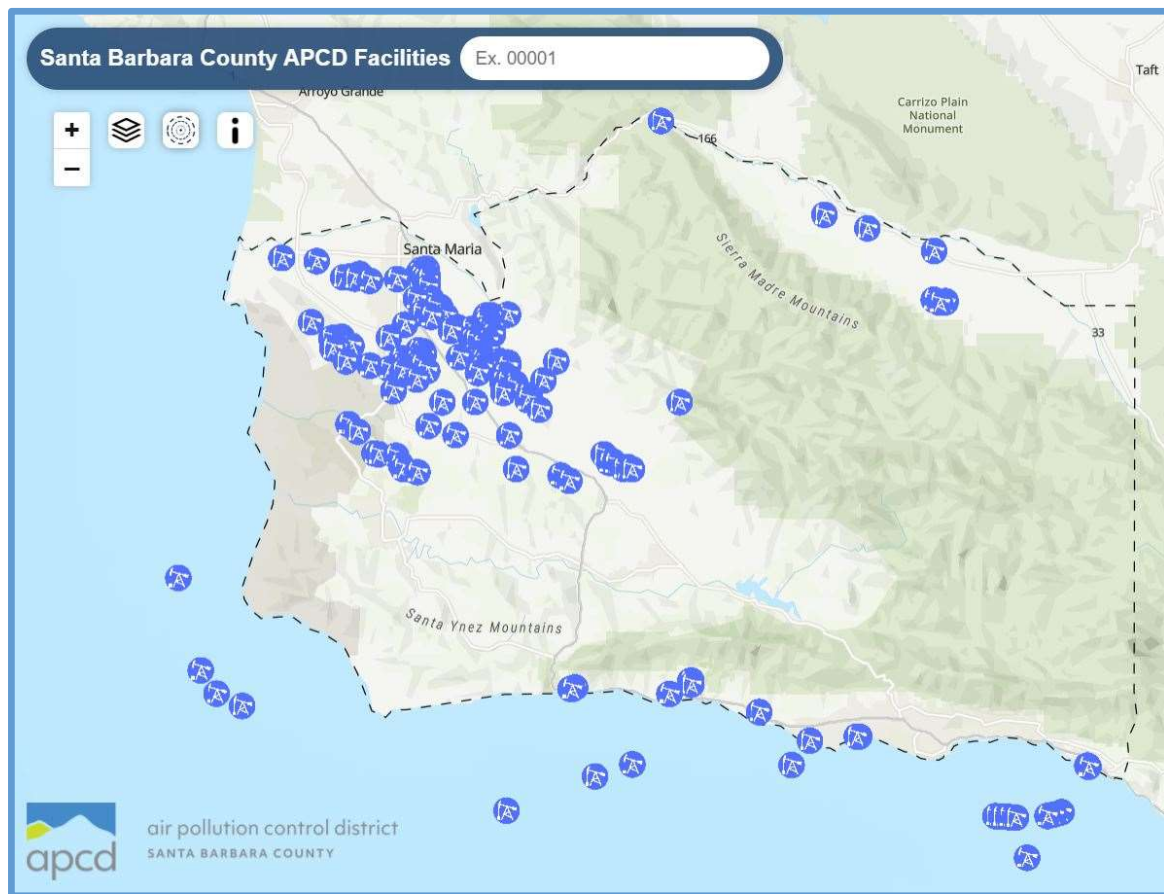
- **Platforms Hogan and Houchin**

- Variances from the District's Hearing Board
- Relief from fugitive hydrocarbon emission limits, operational limits, and leak and repair requirements until July 29, 2025



Permit Program

- 186 permitted oil and gas facilities
- 512 active permits
- Permit requirements for new and modified facilities may include:
 - Best Available Control Technology
 - Air Quality Impact Analysis
 - Health Risk Assessment
 - Emission Offsets
- **Permitted Facilities Map**
 - map.ourair.org



Permitted Facility Map



Santa Barbara County APCD Facilities

Ex. 00001

+

-

air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Facility Name	South Cuyama Unit (SCU)
Facility Number	01074
Company Name	E&B Natural Resources Management Corporation
Facility Type	Oil and Gas Production
Coordinates	34.9055°N, 119.714696°W
Address	<u>South Cuyama Unit, Cuyama, CA 93254</u>
Four Digit SIC	1311

Inspections

Inspection No.	Inspection Date	PDF
54079	2024-11-19	Click to Open
53877	2024-05-08	Click to Open
53675	2024-01-09	Click to Open

Inspections

- Initial and routine inspections
- Major sources
 - 2-4 times per year
- Small and medium sources
 - Between once per year and once every three years
- Frequency determined by
 - Source compliance history
 - District priorities and workload
 - Staffing levels



Inspection Equipment



FLIR GFX 320 Infrared Camera



Personal H2S Monitor



Toxic Vapor Analyzer 2020



Jerome J605 H2S Analyzer



H2S Colorimetric Tube and Pump

Public Nuisance / Hazardous Releases

- **AirPointer:**

- Transmits real-time emissions data
- Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
- Hydrogen sulfide (H2S)
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX)
- Ozone
- Meteorological conditions (wind, temperature)

- **Summa Cannister Sampling:**

- Point-in-time concentration of specific pollutants in the ambient air



Enforcement

- **Notice of Violation**

- Documents non-compliance with air quality requirements
- Initiates corrective action to comply with applicable requirements
- Reduce air pollution

- **Monetary penalties**

- Incentive for continuing compliance

- **Ensure compliance is achieved**

- Variances
- Compliance agreements
- Orders for abatement
- Civil/criminal prosecution

Compliance Statistics

- **Decrease in oil and gas production:**

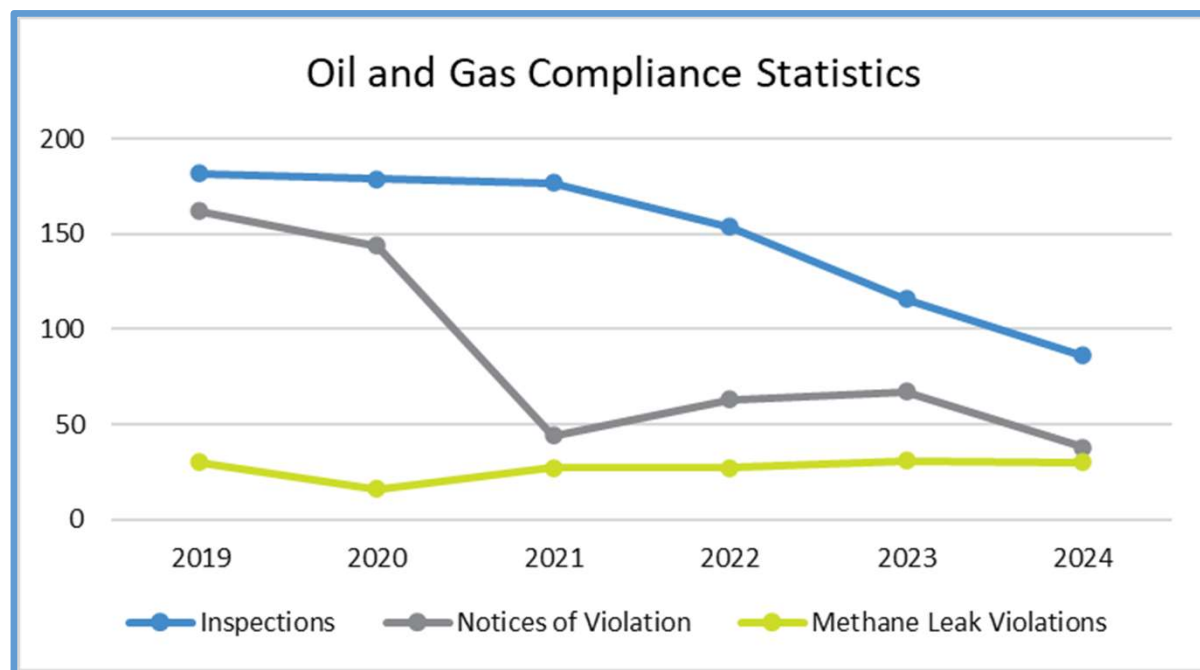
- Platform decommissioning
- Relinquished oil platform leases
- Bankruptcies
- Refinery closures

- **District workload decreases**

- **Decreased fee revenue**

- **2024 inspection decrease:**

- Lead oil and gas staff departure and time to onboard and train new staff



Interagency Coordination

- **The District coordinates with:**

- Local County agencies
- State Agencies

- **Santa Barbara County Systems Safety & Reliability Review Committee:**

- Santa Barbara County P&D, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and the District
- Oil and gas project hazard reviews
- Monthly meetings
- Audits at oil and gas facilities

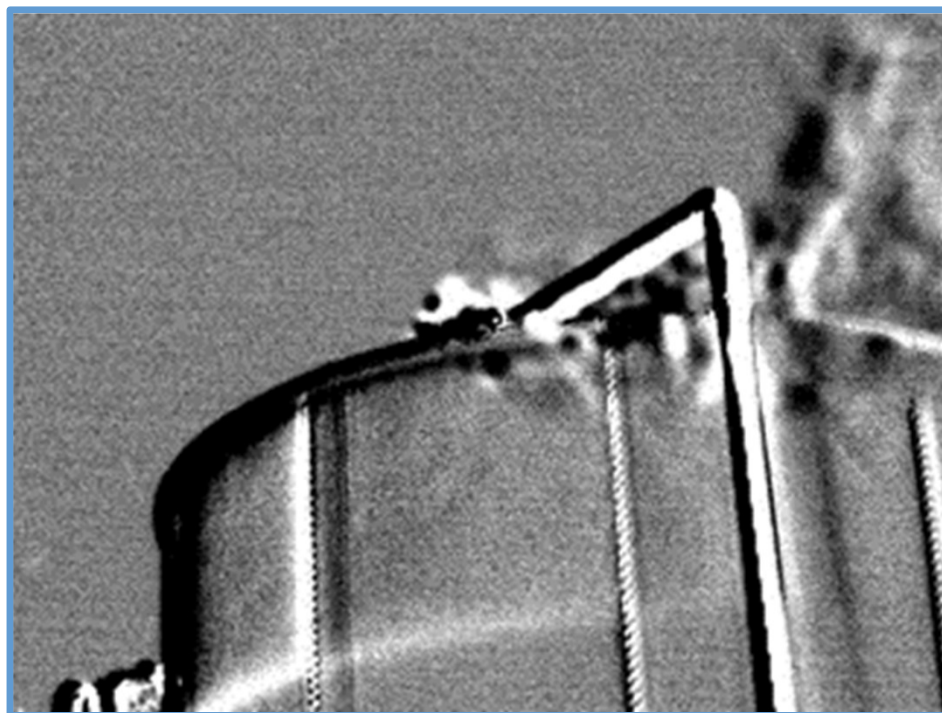


COUNTY of
SANTA BARBARA



Methane Emissions

- **District Rule 331 Fugitive Emissions Inspection and Maintenance**
 - Adopted 1979
 - Regulates fugitive leaks at onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities
- **CARB Oil and Gas Methane Regulation**
 - Adopted in 2017, amended in 2023, potential additional amendments underway
- **Methane Taskforce**
 - Lead by CARB and CalGEM



California Senate Bill 1137

- **Requirements:**

- Health protection zones around sensitive receptors near oil and gas production wells and facilities
- Bans the development of new oil and gas wells in the health protection zone
- Requires operators of existing oil and gas wells in the health protection zone to develop and submit a leak detection and response plan

- **District advising CARB in their rulemaking process to implement the Leak Detection and Response Plans**



Kaitlin McNally

Compliance Division Manager

(805) 979-8298

McNallyK@sbcapcd.org



air pollution control district
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

ourair.org

[@OurAirSBC](https://www.instagram.com/OurAirSBC)