

APPENDIX F

Timeline of Oil and Gas Development in South Ellwood Field

1928 to 1966	1928	The Ellwood Oil Field is discovered by Barnsdall Oil Company. Oil production in the Santa Barbara Channel begins.
	1964/ 1965	The CSLC issues the original oil and gas leases PRC 3242 and 3120 to ARCO and Mobil.
	1966	ARCO constructs Platform Holly and the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF), and begins drilling wells in the South Ellwood Field. Oil production using primary oil recovery techniques and processing at the EOF begins. ¹
1969 to 1994	1969	Santa Barbara Oil Spill leads to moratorium on new leases for offshore drilling in State Waters; however, existing leases were allowed to continue.
	1971	Leases PRC 3242 and 3120 are amended to allow for secondary oil recovery techniques, thereby increasing the volume of oil production. ²
	1974	CSLC certifies Final EIR No. 169 and permits additional drilling in PRC 3242 and 3120 due to less than significant environmental effects. Drilling operations are reinstated and ten new wells are drilled.
	1982	ARCO resumes exploratory drilling with four new wells on PRC 3242 and 3120 to determine the extent of recoverable reserves. Platform Holly begins producing from the Monterey Formation, which includes sour gas. ³ ARCO/Mobil constructs two seep tents on the ocean floor to capture gas and oil from natural seeps in South Ellwood Field.
	1991- 1992	ARCO files legal challenge of CSLC denial of the drilling project for PRC 308 and PRC 309 in court in 1991; a legal settlement agreement allows ARCO to quitclaim leases PRC 308 and PRC 309 in exchange for enhanced drilling rights at the waterflood project off the coast of Long Beach. PRC 308 and 309 are reverted back to the CSLC.
	1993	Mobil acquires full rights to PRC 3242, 3120, and 421 from ARCO.
	1994	The California Sanctuary Act is passed, establishing the California Coastal Sanctuary and prohibiting new oil and gas development in the sanctuary, with some exceptions (see <i>The California Coastal Sanctuary</i> below).
1997 to 2014	1997	Venoco purchases leases PRC 3242 and 3120 and the South Ellwood Field production facilities (e.g., Platform Holly and the EOF) from Mobil.
	1998- 1999	The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) issues Abatement Order 99-6A (4/14/99) in response to odor complaints and a series of gas releases from Platform Holly (7/27/98; 3/13/99; 7/23/99) and potential releases from Barge Jovalan from September 9, 1998 to March 22, 1999. The Abatement Order requires safety audits, establishment of shut-down and restart protocols, installation of a flare on Platform Holly, and perimeter odor monitoring and facility improvements at the EOF.
	2008	Venoco seeks CSLC authorization to adjust the lease boundary for PRC 3242 and 3120 as part of in the Full Field project, this initial application was withdrawn.
	2012	Ellwood Pipeline Company completes the Line 96 onshore pipeline from the EOF to the Plains All American Pipeline tie-in at Las Flores Canyon, which ended the barging of South Ellwood Field oil production from the Ellwood Marine Terminal.
	2014	Venoco seeks CSLC authorization to amend the boundaries to PRC 3242 and 3120 as part of South Ellwood Field Project.

¹ Primary oil recovery techniques rely on natural pressure of the reservoir or gravity to drive oil into the wellbore, and artificial lift techniques such as pumps to bring the oil to the surface.

² Secondary oil recovery techniques extend an oil field's productive life generally by injecting water or gas to displace oil and drive it to a production wellbore.

³ Sour gas is natural gas or any other gas containing significant amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S).