

Plan to restart pipeline sparks anger

Santa Barbara County residents worry about an oil spill similar to huge one near Refugio State Beach in 2015.

By TONY BRISCOE

Nine years ago, when an aging oil pipeline ruptured near the coast of Santa Barbara County, an inky darkness spread over the waters. The massive slick of oil engulfed and killed hundreds of marine animals, including seals, dolphins and pelicans. And the acrid smell of petroleum polluted the coastline's air.

On May 19, 2015, a corroded section of an oil pipeline burst and released more than 140,000 gallons of oil near Refugio State Beach. The incident — which revived memories of a massive 3-million-gallon spill almost 50 years earlier — sullied some of the state's most pristine beaches and a rare stretch of undeveloped coastline. Oil migrated as far away as Orange County, closing fisheries and costing hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up.

Soon after the spill, Exxon Mobil halted operations at its three offshore oil platforms while Plains All American Pipeline idled the connected pipelines. This year, Sable Offshore Corp., a Houston-based energy company, purchased the moth-balled equipment and announced plans to restart oil extraction by the end of the year — including the failed pipeline.

Most recently, the California Coastal Commission has repeatedly admonished the company for performing unauthorized work on the pipeline in an attempt to ready the equipment for transporting oil. This week, environmentalists carrying homemade signs and a large banner reading "Fight Offshore Drilling" protested at a commission meeting in San Diego.

The potential restart and accelerated pace of construction have heightened fears of another catastrophic oil spill.

Environmental groups contend that federally mandated corrosion protection was not effective on the 30-year-old pipeline, and say it will never perform safely. Also, when Santa Barbara County considered a plan to build a new pipeline, an environmental report estimated that the existing line could suffer a spill every year, and a major rupture every four years. These releases, it concluded, could result in a disaster even larger than the 2015 spill.

"It's just old and corroded, so it feels like a ticking time bomb to continue letting this infrastructure operate and to restart it after such a severe spill without [See Pipeline, A10]



JOSH EDELSON For The Times

EZEKIEL MARTINEZ, 7, eats from a baby food pouch while playing at a park with his father last week in Pittsburg, Calif.

Baby food pouches popular, but experts see long-term risks

Every week, Caitlin Scuttio stops by Target and piles her cart with pureed food pouches for her 4-year-old and twin 18-month-old sons.

In goes a 24-pack of unsweetened applesauce. Then a 24-pack of the fruit and veggie blend. And finally, the yogurt pouches for her oldest son's breakfast. "He'd eat six applesauce pouches a day if I let him," Scuttio said.

Total monthly pouch budget: \$200. "They have such a choke hold on my family. I can't imagine our grocery list without it at this point," she said. "We are definitely a pouch family."

Relying too much on the sweet and handy purees could affect child nutrition, boost pickiness, some say

By Jenny Gold

And they aren't alone. Sales of food pouches — soft bags with plastic spouts for easy consumption — have increased 900% since 2010, overtaking jarred purees as the predominant baby food on the market.

Parents generally spoon-feed jars of pureed foods for a few months in the first year of life when introducing solids, but pouches marketed to parents of toddlers and older children have prolonged pureed food eating by years.

Though the occasional pouch can be part of a healthful diet, doctors and [See Baby food, A6]

Lasting effects of Harris the prosecutor

For these Californians, her actions in office changed their lives, for better or worse.

By MACKENZIE MAYS AND LAUREL ROSENHALL

Long before Kamala Harris was vice president and the Democratic presidential nominee, she was San Francisco district attorney and California attorney general. Those roles gave her a platform to shape policy — and many people's lives.

Her years in California politics, including representing the Golden State in the U.S. Senate, remain at the heart of Harris' political identity.

"During her law enforcement career in California, Kamala Harris was a pragmatic prosecutor who successfully took on predators, fraudsters and cheaters to keep communities safe and defend consumers," said her campaign spokesperson James Singer. As Harris campaigns for the nation's highest office against Republican former [See Harris, A9]

FOR REAL WITH AMY KAUFMAN

Who are the people shaping our culture? In her column, Amy Kaufman examines the lives of icons, underdogs and rising stars to find out — "For Real."



EMIL RAVELO For The Times

At 41, Andrew Garfield questions it all: 'I don't know where my calling is'

"Here's me," Andrew Garfield says, gesturing toward a medieval watercolor of a lion. He leans over a display case containing a 14th century book on the zodiac and starts to read aloud from its object label.

"Leo. Fire," he says, listing off the ancient attributes of his astrological sign. "Hot and dry. Extroverted. Quick-tempered — told you. Ambitious — yes. These aren't very nice qualities, I would say. Heart, back, spine — yes. Circulatory, heart problems — yes; well, I had meningitis when I was born."

It's not quite a perfect fit, this description. But at 41, he'll take it. In midlife, he's begun collecting any talisman he feels may instruct him in how to live. He refers to them often in conversation: bits of poetry, quotations, scenes from films. And astrology too, of which he has a more than cursory understanding.

And yet it's a mere cosmic coincidence that "Rising Signs: The Medieval Science of Astrology" is on display at the Getty Center, where he has chosen to meet this Saturday evening. "Oh, s—, that's kind of dope," he says, looking over the list of exhibitions.

He's spent the day surfing in Malibu, and he looks and sounds the part, a slight sunburn already showing itself on his face. He apologizes if it seems like he's just washed ashore.

"My consciousness is all over the map right now," he says, tourists swirling around him in the lobby. Before exploring the museum, he [See Garfield, A7]

What will Hamas do after killing?

Death of leader Yahya Sinwar is a harsh blow but hardly a fatal one, analysts say. WORLD, A3

8 Olympic events in Long Beach

The 2028 Games could distract from solving city's problems, some caution. CALIFORNIA, B1

Garbers leads UCLA to victory

In a career-best game, QB leads Bruins to their first Big Ten win, over Rutgers. SPORTS, D1

Weather

Sunshine. L.A. Basin: 85/60. B9

For the latest news, go to latimes.com.

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.



7 85944 10300 9



Subscribers get more in the app.

Download now to experience all of The Times.

