



California Coastal Commission

455 Market Street, Suite 300
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FACT SHEET

DCOR proposes oil & gas fracking off the coast of Ventura

What is the proposed project?

DCOR, LLC has proposed hydraulic fracturing well stimulation over five years to increase oil production from 1,100 barrels to 4,000 barrels (168,000 gallons) a day at its Platform Gilda off the coast of Ventura County.

The proposed fracking process would inject sea water mixed with chemical fluids at high pressure into 16 existing oil wells to create fractures in the rock several thousand feet below the seafloor. Sand or small ceramic spheres would then be pushed into the fractures to hold them open and increase the flow of oil and gas.

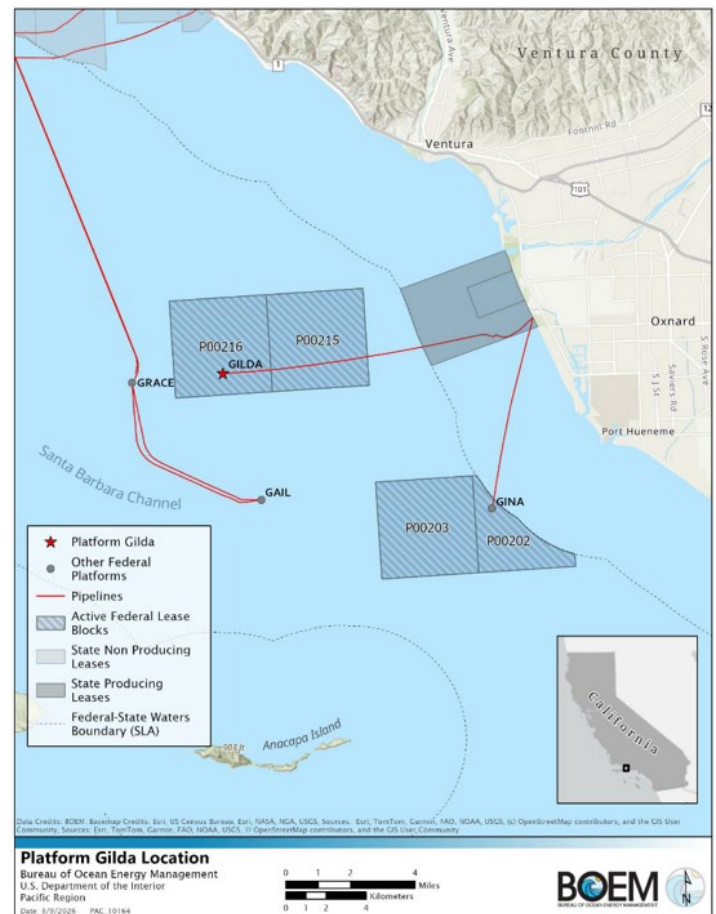
The proposed fracking is projected to result in the extraction of roughly 14 million barrels of oil and 13 million cubic feet of natural gas over the next 20 years, according to the project's Environmental Impact Statement. Without fracking, productions at Platform Gilda would decline and eventually cease, like the nearby, closed Platform Grace.

Where is the project located?

Platform Gilda is located on the outer continental shelf, nearly nine miles offshore of Ventura County. Fracked oil and gas would flow to the platform and then through seafloor pipelines to an onshore processing facility on the coast of Oxnard.

Because the project is in federal waters (more than three nautical miles offshore), it's not subject to California's statewide ban on fracking.

DCOR's proposed project area and surrounding Santa Barbara Channel region include some of the most ecologically significant ocean waters in the country, including the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park, as well as several state and federal marine reserves and conservation areas. The region is also highly productive for commercial fishing.





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How often does the Coastal Commission review such fracking projects?

This is the first time the agency has reviewed a well stimulation project using hydraulic fracturing in federal waters.

Why is the California Coastal Commission reviewing this project?

For nearly 50 years, the Coastal Commission has worked closely with federal agencies to review projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Since California's coastal management program was approved in 1978, the Commission has reviewed more than 3,700 federal and federally regulated projects to make sure they are consistent with California's coastal policies.

DCOR has submitted what's known as a "consistency certification" for review by the Coastal Commission. Commissioners will vote to concur with or object to certifying the project based on their assessment of whether the project is consistent with the state's federally approved Coastal Management Program.

Why did Coastal Commission staff recommend objection?

An objection signals an impasse and that more negotiations between federal agencies and the state are necessary to protect coastal resources. DCOR — one of the largest operators of oil and gas facilities off California's coast — has proposed its standard use of equipment and techniques to protect against oil spills and other environmentally damaging discharges. However, these measures have been shown to be inadequate in recent years.

In 2021, for example, DCOR was responsible for a seafloor pipeline rupture that led to an oil spill offshore of Huntington Beach. Containment and cleanup efforts proved ineffective. Cleanup crews only recovered a small portion of the spilled oil, which fouled sensitive shorelines and wetlands.

Platform Gilda and its associated pipelines and infrastructure have been in continuous use for roughly 45 years — more than twice the duration expected when first authorized by the Coastal Commission in 1981.

Coastal Commission staff believe that this fracking proposal would place additional strain on aged infrastructure due to the nearly four-fold surge in oil production and the high-pressure injection of fracking fluids — increasing the likelihood of a spill as well as its size and severity.