

# Ellwood/South Ellwood Decommissioning Project Abandonment Updates

*Goleta Town Hall | August 27, 2020*

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION



California State  
Lands Commission



# Platform Holly: Where We Are

- Since our last Town Hall, we completed the lower abandonment in 14 wells using coil tubing. We had 3 wells left to do using this method when all P&A activity was suspended in mid-March due to the Commission and ExxonMobil pandemic response plans.
- Due to the pandemic both the Commission and ExxonMobil determined that further operations for the well P&A on platform Holly was untenable, given the social distancing requirements and continued personnel and idle equipment costs.
- In June, the parties decided to “cold stack” the platform, which means to remove all the rental equipment and remove, secure, and/or preserve all other equipment from the marine environment to prevent degradation.

# The Decision to Cold-Stack

- The decision to suspend all operations was based on several factors:
  - the large number of people needed to operate the equipment necessary to safely plug and abandon the wells
  - the difficulty in transporting sufficient personnel on crew boats while physically distancing
  - the relatively small size of the platform, which makes physical distancing difficult
  - the cost of keeping and maintaining the equipment on the platform while the operations are suspended
- The decision was also based on the expectation that the shutdown could last another 6-12 months.

# Current Activity

- On July 26, the platform Holly work teams completed the preservation, cold stacking and demobilization of the Holly equipment, and all ExxonMobil and other contract personnel left the platform.
- The Commission and its contractors, Beacon West Energy, will continue to staff Holly and the other facilities with a reduced crew in order to maintain security, monitor the wells, and to maintain the equipment left behind.

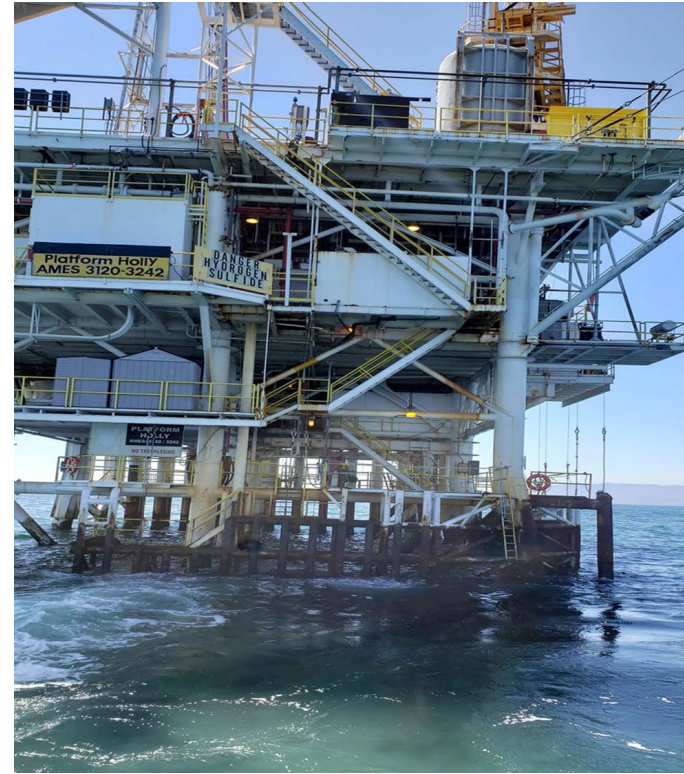




# Going Forward

Commission staff and ExxonMobil will meet regularly to assess the potential for restarting work based on

- the evolution of the pandemic;
- significant changes to distancing guidelines; and/or
- medical advances in treatment or virus prevention



# Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF)

- No new operations have occurred or are planned at this time.
- A new emergency generator has been installed at the facility.
- Commission staff and its contractor are preparing to have the unused equipment of the facility, taken “out of service.”





# PRC 421 Piers and Wells





# Decommissioning PRC 421 Infrastructure

- The Commission, ExxonMobil and InterAct are proceeding with preliminary work to decommission the PRC 421 piers that are located onshore.
- As discussed at the last town hall, both wells have been completely plugged and abandoned.
- A test for soil removal inside the caissons is planned for September, now that the nesting season is over.

# Soil Removal Test

- Workers will clear vegetation on the access road and conduct the soil removal test inside the PRC 421 #2 well caisson (the structure furthest east).
- The test will test a method of soil removal using controlled water pressure to loosen soil which is then removed via suction to containment bins.
- This method has proven successful in the Aliso Canyon restoration.



# Decommissioning – Soil Removal Test

If successful, this method of soil removal from inside the caisson has many advantages over conventional methods:

- Avoids extensive use of heavy equipment within caisson
- Provides better containment during the soil removal
- Can work around internal structures leaving internal caisson structural members intact
- Water pressure may also remove significant hydrocarbons adhered to internal caisson structures as well as in the soil
- Allows for the evaluation of the structural integrity of the caissons and will aid in planning for their removal

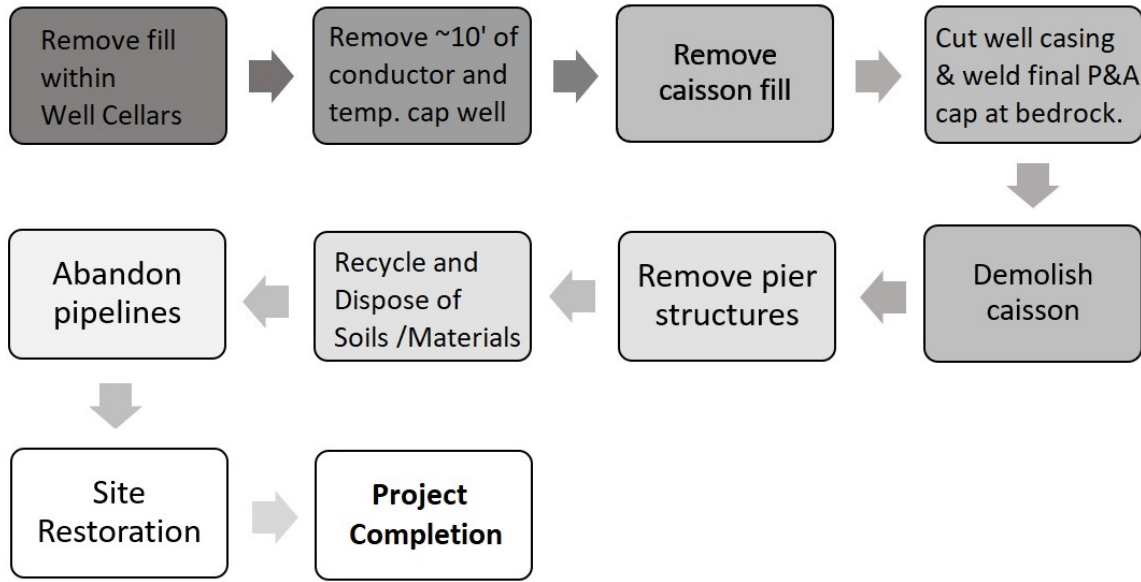


# Decommissioning - Planning

- Once the determination on the method for soil removal is made, a complete “project description” will be developed to commence the environmental process.
- Commission staff, in cooperation with all interested agencies and the public, will prepare the required environmental document. It is estimated that the process will take about one year to complete.
- The work to completely remove the infrastructure in the surf zone and on the beach is expected to begin in the fall of 2021 at the earliest.
- Deconstruction of the caissons will maximize use of the piers and limit work directly on the beach.

# Decommissioning – Planning – Process Flow)

## PRC 421 Piers - Decommissioning Process Flow





**THANK YOU**

**QUESTIONS?**

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