PRC 421 Pier & Caisson Decommissioning

Periodic Beach Closure for Facility Demolition and Beach Restoration

The California State Lands Commission and its contractor, Beacon West Energy Group, LLC, will be removing the pier and caisson structures, known as PRC 421-1 and 421-2, at Haskell’s Beach in the City of Goleta. The piers and caissons formerly supported two oil wells in the surf zone near the Sandpiper Golf Course that were permanently plugged in 2019. This landmark project marks the end of the Ellwood Oil Field that began production in the 1930s.

The Commission prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and secured permits for this project in collaboration with various federal, state, and local agencies. More information can be found at: www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/prc-421-decommissioning-project.

What: The project requires the use of heavy equipment at the 421 worksite and transport of approximately 500 truckloads of material to an approved recycling and disposal facility. The worksite will be accessed via the existing gravel access road adjacent to the Ellwood Onshore Facility and along the 12’ wide easement across the golf course and along the cliff to the piers. Removal of the piers and caissons will require equipment access along the beach during low tides. The beach will remain open, but the beach around the project may be closed temporarily from time to time to keep the public safe during operations.

When: Decommissioning work will begin the week of August 29, 2022 and is expected to take 5-6 months to complete. Normal work hours will be Mon through Fri, 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. Due to the surf zone location of the facilities, some work must be scheduled around low tide cycles, which may be outside of these hours.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
Sheri Pemberton, Public Information Officer,
California State Lands Commission
Sheri.Pemberton@slc.ca.gov | 916.574.1992