CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS
COMMISSION

100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

MATTHEW DUMLAO, PhD, *Executive Officer*
Reception: 916.574.1900
TTY: 711

January 22, 2026

SCH # _____
File Ref: W30119

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and that CSLC staff will hold two sessions of a hybrid (virtual and in person) public scoping meeting pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for the project listed below.[1]

Project Title:	Platform Holly Decommissioning Project
Proponent:	California State Lands Commission
Project Location:	Platform Holly is located in California State Waters, approximately 2 miles offshore of the city of Goleta in Santa Barbara County, in approximately 211 feet of water. The Project also would include decommissioning five pipelines and two power cables from the Platform to shore, and two existing seep tents located on the seafloor approximately 1 mile southeast of the Platform (see Figure 1).

[1] CEQA is in Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.; the State CEQA Guidelines are in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000 et seq. The public scoping meeting will be held pursuant to CEQA (§ 21083.9, subd. (a)(2)) and the State CEQA Guidelines (§§ 15082, subd. (c), and 15083).

Meeting Information: February 19, 2026. Sessions begin at **2 PM** and **6 PM**

2 PM	6 PM
Goleta City Hall, 130 Cremona Dr., Goleta, CA, and Via Zoom or by Phone through links provided at the CSLC Project Page at: www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/platform-holly-decommissioning-project	Goleta City Hall, 130 Cremona Dr. Goleta, CA, and Via Zoom or by Phone through links provided at the CSLC Project Page at: www.slc.ca.gov/ceqa/platform-holly-decommissioning-project

The CSLC staff has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to solicit public, tribal, and agency comments, in writing or at the public meeting, as to the scope and content of the environmental analysis and mitigation measures to include in the EIR. Applicable agencies will need to use the EIR when considering related permits or other Project approvals. This NOP, including the description of the Proposed Project in the Attachment, is also available online at www.slc.ca.gov (under the "Information" tab and "CEQA" link).

Written comments must be received or postmarked by February 23, 2026. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date to:

Christine Day Senior Environmental Scientist California State Lands Commission 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825	**Email:** CEQA.comments@slc.ca.gov (Subject Line: Platform Holly Decommissioning Project NOP Comments) **Phone:** (916) 562-0027

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Each session of the public scoping meeting will be conducted in person at the Goleta City Hall, address provided above, and also using the online meeting platform Zoom. You may join the online portion of the meeting by using the web link listed above for the session you would like to join, or by dialing in by telephone at the number listed above. The Zoom meeting links will also be available on the CSLC's website at www.slc.ca.gov (under the "Information" tab and "CEQA" link). You may join from a desktop computer, laptop, mobile device, or telephone. Staff recommends that you test out your device, internet connection, and Zoom app compatibility well before attempting to join the meeting.

The CSLC staff will begin each session of the scoping meeting with a brief presentation on the Proposed Project. The material presented at both sessions will be the same. Two sessions are scheduled for the convenience of the attendees. After the presentation, staff will receive comments on the potential

significant environmental issues that should be included in the EIR, until all persons present (in person and online) who wish to provide oral comments have done so, at which time staff will close the session. Each session will be recorded, and all oral comments will be summarized in a scoping memo. A 3-minute time limit on oral comments may be imposed. No Commission action on the Proposed Project will occur at these sessions; any such action will occur at a separate noticed public meeting after the EIR has been finalized.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION
PLATFORM HOLLY DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND LOCATION

Platform Holly was constructed by Mobil Oil (Mobil) and Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) in 1966 within the South Ellwood Field, located approximately 2 miles offshore of Goleta, California (CSLC Leases PRC 3120 and 3242, Figure 1). Platform Holly is located at latitude 34°23'23.89" N and longitude 119°54'22.28" W. Mobil installed Platform Holly, and ARCO operated the facilities after completion. ARCO later installed two seep tents on the seafloor approximately one mile southeast of Platform Holly to capture hydrocarbons from natural seepages. The seep tents are located at latitude 34°23'1.16" N and longitude 119°53'23.13" W.

Mobil obtained ARCO's interest in the South Ellwood Field facilities in 1993 but then sold the facilities and transferred the CSLC leases to Venoco in 1997. In 1999, Mobil merged with Exxon Corporation to form Exxon Mobil Corporation (ExxonMobil). In Spring 2017, Venoco filed for bankruptcy, abandoned operations in the South Ellwood Field, and quitclaimed (i.e., surrendered) the CSLC leases back to the CSLC after becoming financially insolvent. Consequently, CSLC is currently the operator of Platform Holly and related facilities overlaying the former oil and gas leases (Figure 2). In 2018, CSLC and ExxonMobil entered into an agreement to decommission the Platform and related facilities.

CSLC and ExxonMobil completed the permanent plugging and abandonment of Platform Holly's 30 oil and gas wells in September 2024. The Platform is currently in caretaker status, meaning that wells have been plugged and disconnected from the reservoir, process fluids have been removed and equipment cleaned, and the facility is now unstaffed and remotely monitored for safety while CSLC prepares the decommissioning program and completes the environmental review process. The CSLC is the CEQA lead agency and will prepare an EIR to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Platform Holly Decommissioning Project (Project).

Figure 1. CSLC Former Leases PRC 3120 and 3242

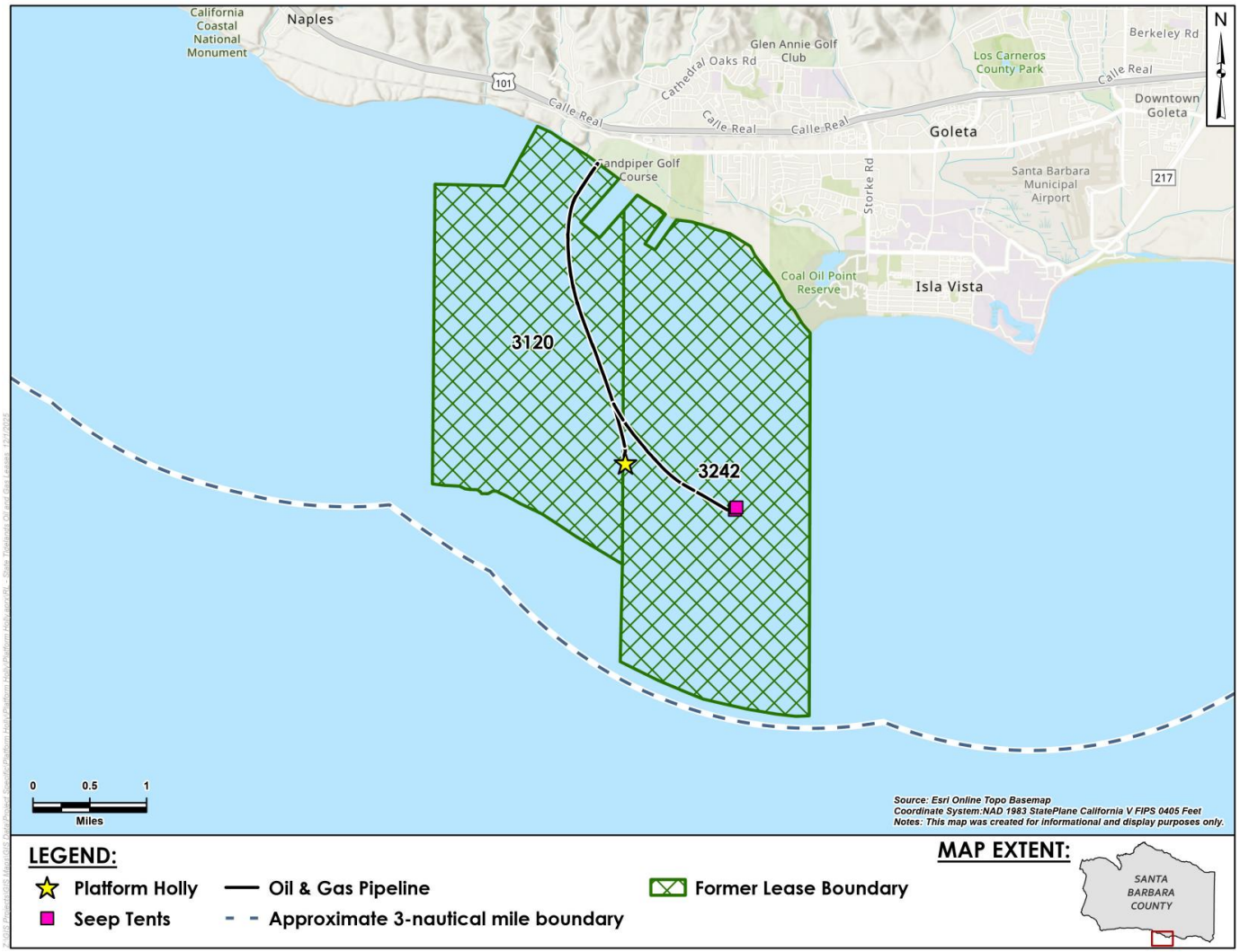


Figure 2. Project Area and Facilities

Although Platform Holly was historically connected to the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF), the EOF is privately owned, and its decommissioning will be addressed in a separate environmental review. The proposed Project includes decommissioning Platform Holly and related offshore facilities within CSLC jurisdiction (defined as submerged tidelands from offshore to the mean high-water mark at the shoreline), with the addition of the pipelines across Haskell's Beach.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Platform Holly Decommissioning Project are:

- Permanent decommissioning of Platform Holly and its associated infrastructure (pipelines, power cables, and seep tents).
- Removal of the pipeline crossings through Haskell's Beach to provide improved public access during the winter season when the pipelines are historically exposed.

PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

The proposed Project would include removal of Platform Holly to five feet below the mudline, removal of associated pipelines and power cables, and removal of the two seep tents as further described below. The proposed Project scenario would use an anchored or dynamically positioned (DP) heavy lift vessel (HLV) to remove the Platform and seep tents, and a light lift spread (or recovery spread, including a reverse pipe-lay system, see Figure 8) to remove the pipelines, power cables, shell mound, and Project-related debris. Following removal, recovered materials would be taken to a combination of receiving facilities, which may include Port Hueneme (POH), Port of Los Angeles/Port of Long Beach (POLA/POLB), or Port of Ensenada, Mexico (POEM) for final processing, recycling, or disposal.

For the purposes of the EIR and with respect to analysis of potential impacts, POEM is included as a worst-case scenario receiving facility for all recovered materials due to its distance from the Project site. However, the Project would prioritize utilization of domestic waste processing receiving locations at the ports of Hueneme, Los Angeles, or Long Beach to the greatest extent feasible. The final location for processing, recycling, or disposal of recovered materials from decommissioning activities is dependent upon Port coordination (currently in progress) and the volume of materials to be processed at the time of decommissioning.

As proposed, the final disposition of Project components would include:

- Full removal of Platform Holly with excavation to five feet below the mudline
- Partial removal of the shell mound within the immediate footprint of the platform jacket
- Full removal of all pipelines and power cables
    - Bundled pipeline (4 lines) including:
        - One 6-inch-diameter produced gas line
        - One 6-inch-diameter oil production line
        - One 4-inch-diameter fuel gas supply line
        - One 2-inch-diameter potable water line
- Seep tent pipeline: one 8-inch-diameter produced gas line
- Original power cable (3-inch-diameter)
- Replacement power cable (4-inch-diameter)
- Full removal of seep tents and associated pipelines
- Transport of recovered materials to a selected receiving facility for processing, recycling, or disposal. Dependent upon the receiving facility utilized (due to available space and consideration of adjacent uses), prior to offloading, processing may also necessitate:
    - Utilization of a temporary floating marine growth cleaning station (comprised of a processing materials barge anchored at a designated mooring just outside of the port)
    - Dockside steel demolition on the materials barge to break down steel into smaller sections prior to offloading for recycling or disposal at the receiving facility

Platform Holly and Shell Mound Removal

Existing Structure Description

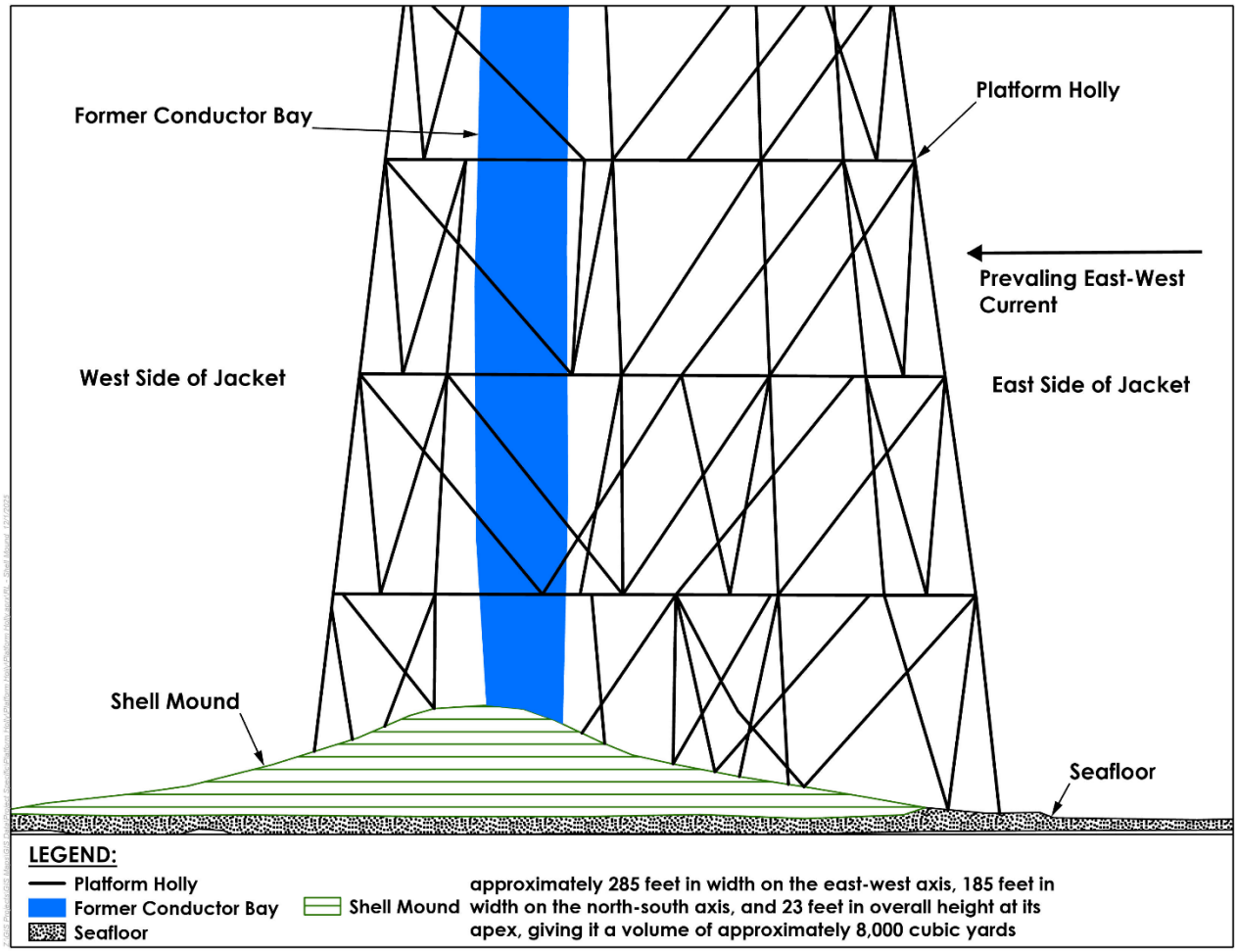
Platform Holly is an 8-leg tubular jacket structure measuring approximately 231 feet in height, sitting on the seafloor in approximately 211 feet of water (Figure 3). The platform is currently in caretaker mode; plugging and abandonment of the 30 wells was completed in September 2024, including removal of the well conductors, so the platform no longer has contact with the South Ellwood Field

reservoir. The topside structure comprises multiple decks, stairways, processing equipment, a crane, and a helipad. The topsides equipment and pipelines have been cleaned and purged of petroleum hydrocarbons and cleared of loose objects. All remaining safety, monitoring, and navigational equipment operate without the need for shore-based water or power.

On the seafloor, the Platform is surrounded by a layering of old drilling muds and cuttings, and buried by a thick layer of sediment, dislodged shells, and marine organisms from the platform jacket, comprising the Platform Holly shell mound. The shell mound is approximately 285 feet in width on the east-west axis, 185 feet in width on the north-south axis, and 23 feet in height at its apex (Figure 4), giving it a volume of approximately 8,000 cubic yards. Sampling is currently being conducted to determine the shell mound composition. The Platform is also surrounded by naturally occurring petroleum hydrocarbon seeps from the seafloor within the Coal Oil Point seep field.

Figure 3. Platform Holly (October 2024)

Figure 4. Depiction of Platform Holly Shell Mound



Decommissioning Methods

Decommissioning of Platform Holly would be accomplished using a Dynamically Positioned Heavy Lift Vessel (DP HLV) with dive equipment (Figure 5) or an anchored HLV assisted by a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV)/dive support vessel (DSV) (Figure 6) by means of a "piece small" methodology. This methodology consists of removing sections of the platform topsides and then the jacket as they are cut from the greater structure in a coordinated sequence to ensure structural integrity. Several support vessels such as crew boats, tugboats, and a survey boat would also be utilized to perform various support tasks throughout decommissioning.

Figure 5. Typical Dynamically Positioned Heavy Lift Vessel

Figure 6. Typical Anchored Heavy Lift Vessel Spread

The topsides may be removed in a single lift or in sections, as determined by engineering studies based on the HLV capabilities. Each section would be rigged, separated, and lifted by the HLV's main crane(s) and placed on a deck barge(s) for transportation to the POEM dismantling and recycling facility.

The platform jacket would be removed to five feet below the natural mud line (estimated at approximately -216 feet). Full removal of the jacket structure would require subsea sectioning into smaller lifting sections for recovery. The underwater cutting and deconstruction work would be performed using specialized underwater cutting equipment. Each section would be rigged, separated, and lifted by the HLV's main crane(s) and placed on a deck barge(s) for transportation to the POEM dismantling and recycling facility.

Prior to completing the jacket structure removal, the shell mound must be removed to allow access to the lower jacket. Due to the depth of the Platform in over 200 foot of water, and the prevailing east-to-west water current, the shell mound located beneath Platform Holly is scattered and primarily concentrated near the western side of the jacket with its apex located inside the footprint of the former well conductor pipes. The Project includes removal of the shell mound within the immediate footprint of the Platform jacket to the extent feasible by a mechanical dredge system.

Once the jacket removal reaches approximately -145 feet underwater, the jacket removal HLV would move off location and a light derrick barge spread would excavate the shell mound and, if required, the seafloor around each jacket leg to facilitate external pile cutting. The removal of the shell mound and the additional seafloor excavation for external pile cutting would total approximately 10,600 cubic yards of material (approximately 8,000 cubic yards of shell mound and 325 cubic yards per jacket leg), and recovered shell mound waste would be captured in a containerized hopper barge. Once complete, the light derrick barge would move offsite and the HLV would return to complete the removal of the remaining jacket. The remaining pile segments positioned deeper than five feet below the seafloor elevation would be left in place and eventually covered by sediment due to existing bottom currents in the area.

Pipelines and Power Cables Removal

Existing Structure Descriptions

Pipelines

The Project includes portions of the following pipelines:

- Platform Holly Offshore Pipeline Bundle to Shore:
    - One 6-inch-diameter x 14,400 feet long - Platform Holly to EOF Produced Gas Line
    - One 6-inch-diameter x 14,400 feet long - Platform Holly to EOF Oil Production Line
    - One 4-inch-diameter x 14,400 feet long - EOF to Platform Holly Fuel Gas Supply Line
    - One 2-inch-diameter x 14,400 feet long - EOF to Platform Holly Potable Water Line
- Seep Tent Pipeline: One 8-inch-diameter x 19,000 feet long - Seep Tent to EOF Produced Gas Line

In a hydrographic and geotechnical survey conducted in September 2023, the pipeline bundle was found to be generally buried to an average depth of 1.6 feet below the seafloor with only short segments visible on the seabed. The seep tent pipeline is exposed on the seafloor from its connection to the seep tents for approximately 6,800 feet and then becomes buried (Figure 2).

The offshore pipelines cross the beach on their way to the EOF. These pipelines are exposed seasonally across Haskell's Beach (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Platform Holly Pipelines Exposed at Haskell's Beach (Winter Conditions – January 2023)

Power Cables

Two submarine power cables provided Platform Holly with electrical power. These include an original 3-inch-diameter power cable (approximately 14,200 feet long), which is located from Platform Holly to the EOF, and the replacement 4-inch-diameter power cable (approximately 13,600 feet long), which is located from Platform Holly to a horizontally directionally drilled boring under Hole 12 of the Sand Piper Golf Course, north of the beach crossing. The sections of the two submarine power cables that are part of the Project were laid directly on the seafloor but have become mostly buried offshore (due to natural processes) to a depth of approximately 1.5 feet below the seafloor.

Submarine Pipeline and Cable Decommissioning Methods

The pipelines and power cables would be fully removed by a reverse pipe-lay barge and support vessel (Figure 8). The pipelines would be recovered either by a "Reverse Pipe-Lay" method or by a "Conventional Excavate-Shear-Grapple" method. The "Reverse Pipe-Lay" method uses a deck-mounted pipe tensioning machine to lift the pipeline from the seafloor without excavation and bring it to surface, where it is cut into approximately 40-foot sections. The "Conventional Excavate-Shear-Grapple" method first uses a submersible dredge pump to uncover the full length of buried pipe, then uses an underwater shear to cut the pipeline into approximately 40-foot segments on the seafloor and lastly uses a

remotely operated grapple to recover the cut pipe pieces and load them onto a deck barge. Although the pipelines and power cables are only buried by a shallow layer of sediment, underwater excavation may be necessary (through the use of a submersible dredge pump such as a Toyo pump or airlift) to expose the pipelines wherever they are buried.

Figure 8. Schematic of Reverse Pipe Lay Barge and Materials Barge Support Vessel

The power cable would be fully removed by a reverse cable-lay barge and support vessel (Figure 9).

The power cables would be recovered to the deck of the barge using a deck-mounted pipe tensioning machine and rolled up on a reel. The power cables would be carried to port on the reel, and the cable would be spooled off dockside and cut into truckable segments for recycling or disposal.

Figure 9. Schematic of Reverse Cable-Lay Barge Support Vessel

Surf Zone and Beach Crossing Decommissioning Methods

The power cables, pipeline bundle, and seep tent pipeline cross approximately 400 feet of Haskell's Beach and then connect to the EOF. However, the limits of the Commission's jurisdiction are defined as submerged tidelands from offshore to the mean high-water mark at the shoreline, and the Project activities evaluated in this EIR include pipeline removal up to the first bluff landward of the mean-high tide line. In order to remove these crossings, a terrestrial crew and equipment would access the onshore Project site from either the EOF through Sand Piper Golf Course and down a constructed, temporary access ramp or from the Bacara Resort fire road access gate approximately ¼ mile northwest. The sections of pipelines and power cables that cross the beach would be recovered using heavy construction equipment (i.e., excavators) to trench and cut approximately 30-foot sections (a length that is predetermined for trucking) from this crossing. Cut sections would be loaded by the excavator into a dump truck for transport from the temporary staging area to a recycling facility.

Seep Tents Removal

Existing Structure Description

Two seep tents are located on the seafloor approximately 5,400 feet east-southeast of Platform Holly in approximately 220 feet of water (Figures 10a and 10b). The seep tents were installed in 1982 to capture natural oil seepage from the South Ellwood Field offshore. The seep tents consist of the following facilities:

- Two structural steel seep tents, each approximately 100 feet by 100 feet at their base. A 60-inch-diameter vertical recovery tank extends through the apex of each seep tent, making the total height approximately 60 feet above the seafloor
- Sixteen reinforced concrete ballast weights
- Eight structural steel panel extensions
- A 400-foot length of 6-inch-diameter submarine cargo hose
- A reinforced concrete base for the 6-inch-diameter tee manifold
- Three 6-inch-diameter submarine cargo hose jumpers

A series of external pipes, fittings, and rubber submarine cargo hoses captured the recovered natural gas into the seep tent pipeline that transported natural gas to the EOF for processing. Another series of external pipes, fittings, and a 400-foot rubber submarine cargo hose connected to a 6-inch-diameter manifold was previously utilized to offload recovered oil to a regularly scheduled offloading vessel for transport to market.

Figure 10a. Seep Tents Area

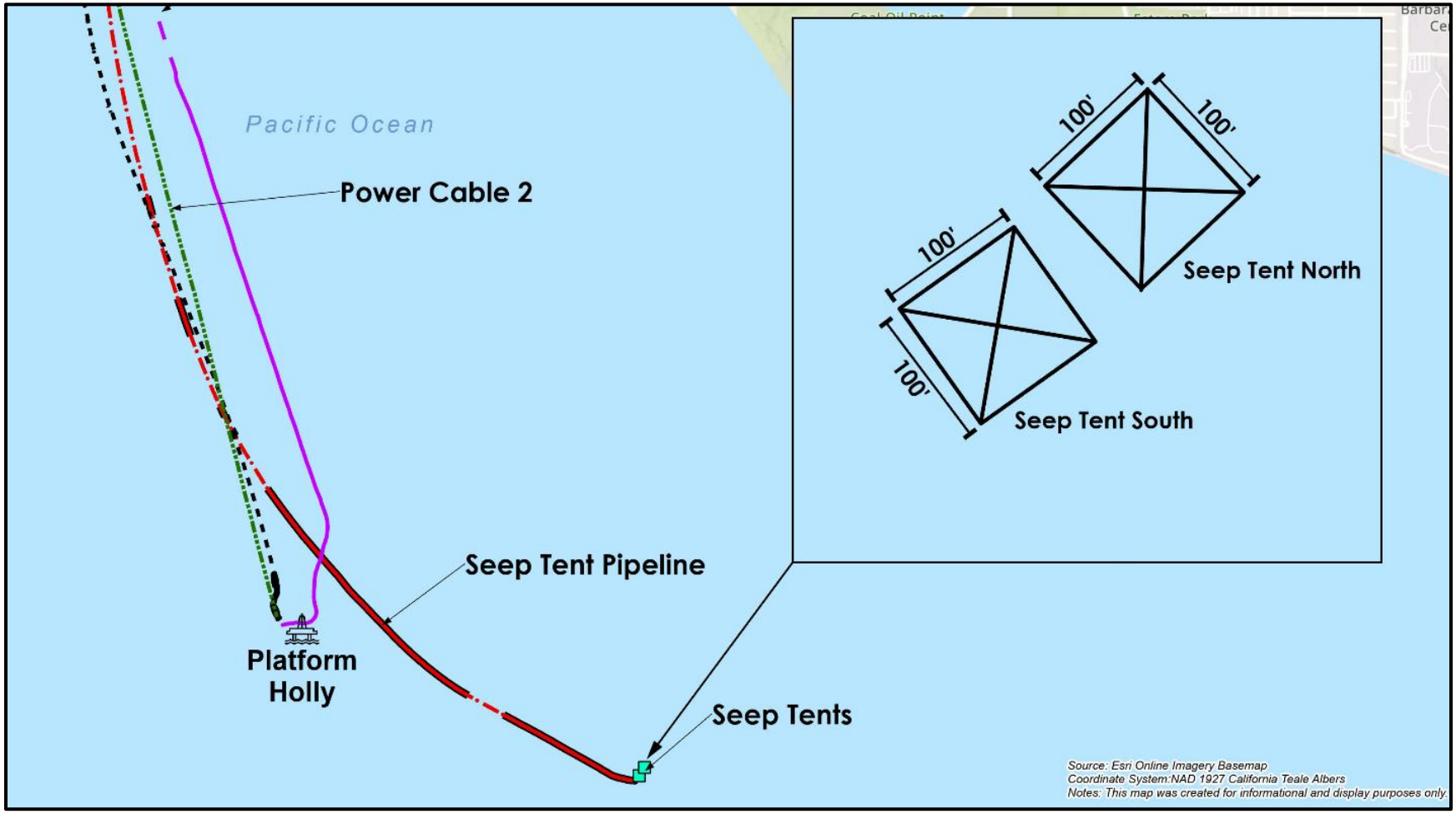
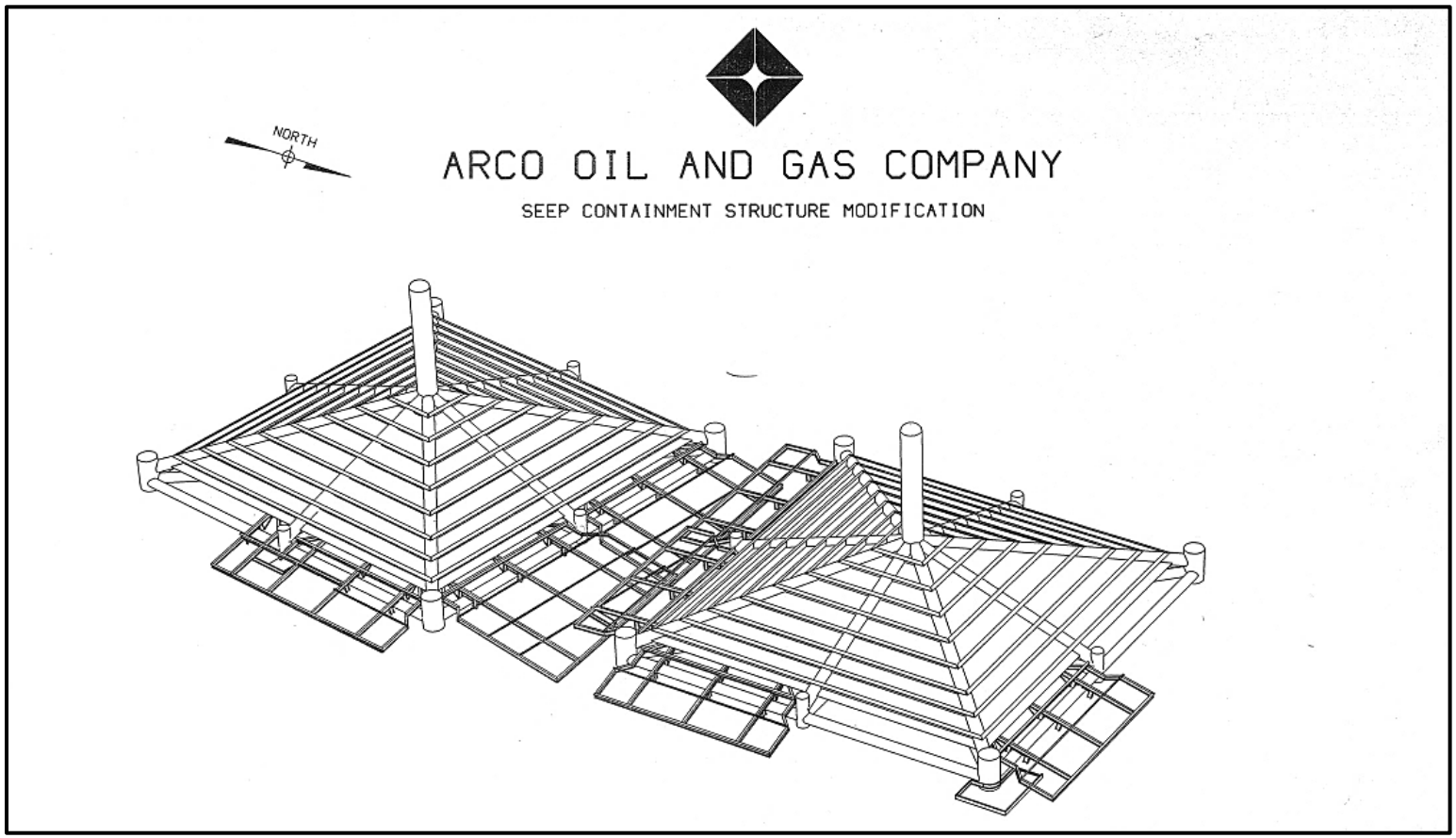


Figure 10b. Seep Tents Rendering



Decommissioning Methods

The seep tents and supporting components would be fully recovered by the same anchored or DP HLV utilized to remove the Platform jacket. The recovered tents would then be lifted by the HLV main crane and placed on the deck of a materials barge for transportation to the POEM dismantling facility.

Seafloor Debris Survey and Recovery

Prior to the arrival of the HLV to the Platform Holly worksite, a seafloor debris survey would be conducted to provide a baseline of the seafloor conditions within the Project's seafloor boundaries. At the conclusion of the Project, a second seafloor debris survey would be conducted in the same area to identify the presence of any seafloor debris resulting from the decommissioning operations, and to confirm the presence and locations of seafloor debris connected with the Platform Holly (Arco/Mobil South Ellwood Field) past operations. Project-related seafloor debris and seafloor debris related to the Arco/Mobil South Ellwood Field past operations would be recovered to the extent practicable and recycled or disposed. A final post-completion seafloor survey would be conducted after all offshore decommissioning activities are completed to confirm that all facilities have been decommissioned per the approved workplan, and to confirm the removal of all Project-related debris. The survey report would document the post-Project site conditions.

Recycling and Disposal

Platform and Seep Tent Disposal

As previously described, each recovered Project component would be placed on a 250- to 400-foot deck barge for transportation to the POEM dismantling and recycling facility. At this location, the deck barges would be offloaded dockside where land-based crews would address marine growth and dismantle the facilities for transportation by ship or truck to a local recycling facility. Other minimal components that cannot be recycled would be disposed of at approved landfills.

If the platform and seep tents can be dismantled at POLA/POLB or POH, the Project structures would be first taken to a temporary floating marine growth cleaning station (Figure 11). The temporary floating marine growth cleaning station consists of an anchored deck barge that would be located outside of the port. Crews on the marine growth cleaning station would manually scrape

marine growth from the structures and load it into 20-foot sealed roll-off bins for transport to an approved disposal facility onshore.

In this scenario, topsides and materials that have been cleaned of marine growth would then be processed on a barge that is stationed dockside (also referred to as quayside) at the Port (Figure 12). Larger pieces would be broken into smaller sections and lifted by a dockside crane for final processing and transportation by ship or truck to a recycling facility. Other minimal components that cannot be recycled would be disposed of at approved landfills.

Figure 11. Temporary Floating Marine Growth Cleaning Station (Example)

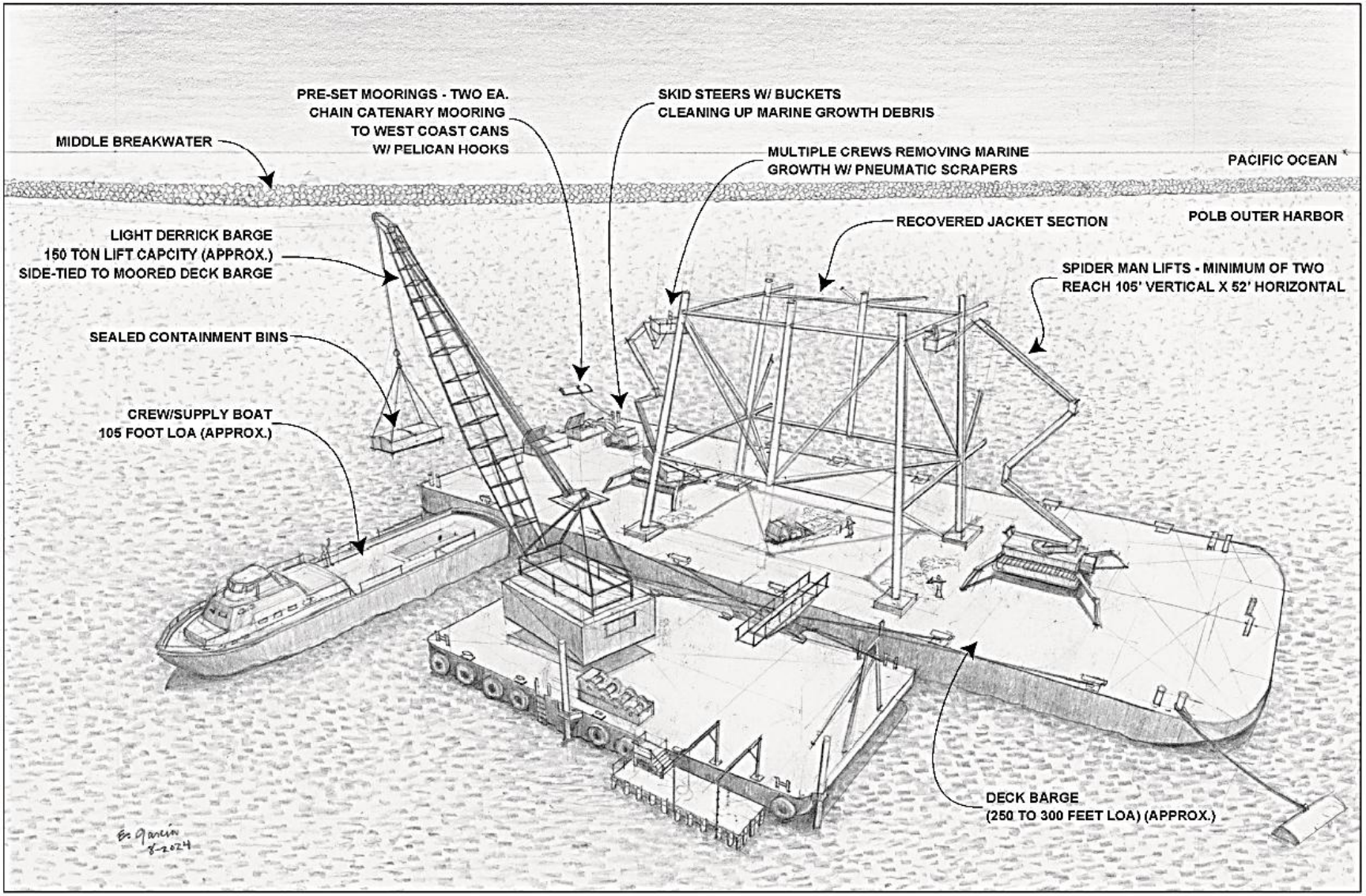
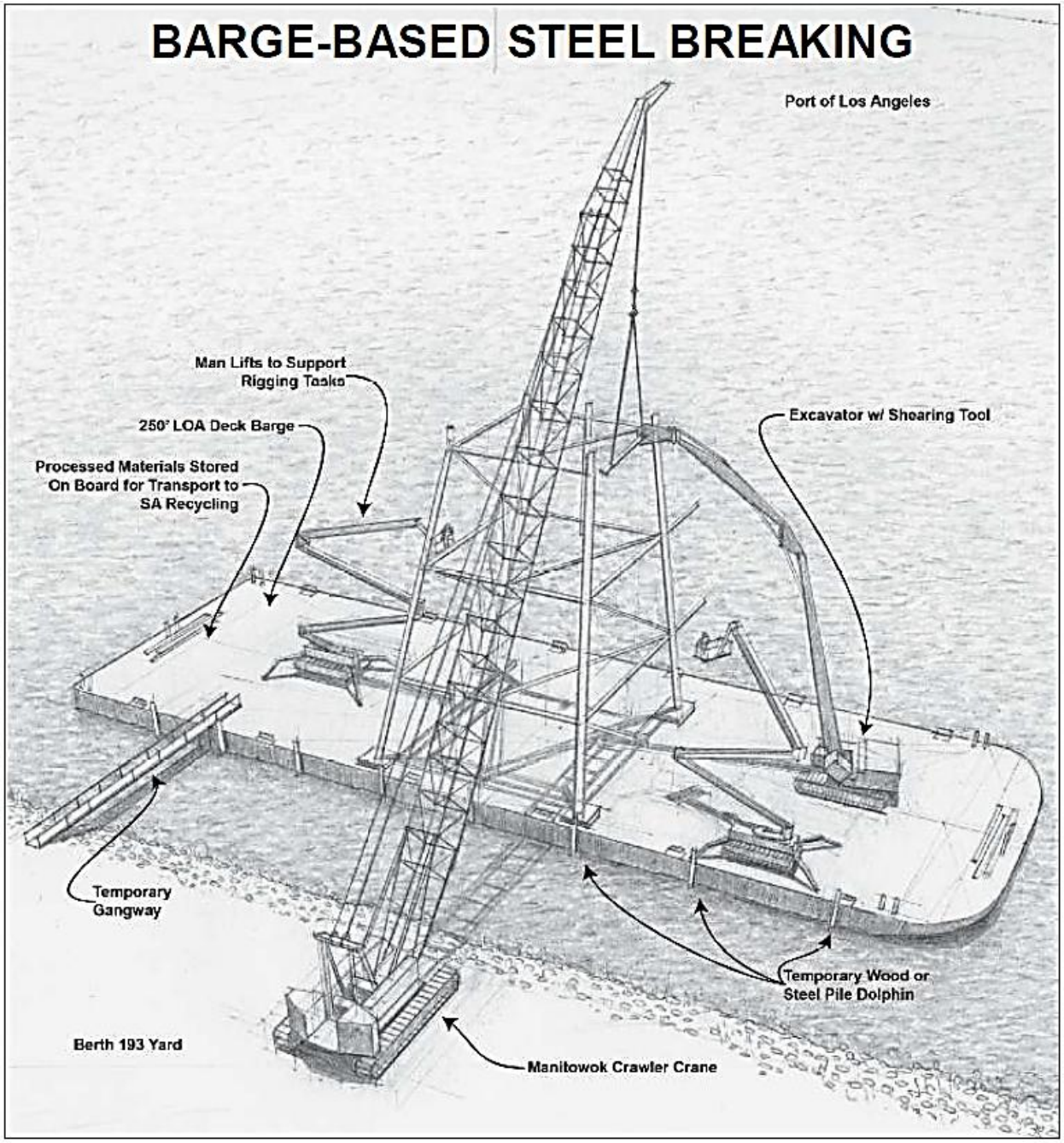


Figure 12. Barge-Based Steel Breaking Station Dockside (Example)



Shell Mounds Disposal

The shell mound would be removed and recovered as described above. After the hopper barges are filled with shell mound materials and accompanying water, they would transit to a temporary portable processing plant (assumed to be at POH or POLA/POLB) to dewater and offload spoils. Once offloaded, the wastewater would be transported by truck to an industrial wastewater plant for treatment and processing, and the sediments and shell materials would be transported by truck for reuse or disposal at approved landfills.

Pipelines and Power Cables Disposal

The pipelines and power cables would be recovered as described above. After the deck barges are filled with material, they would transit to a processing and transfer location at POLA/POLB or POH, where the materials would be offloaded to trucks for recycling or disposal at approved landfills.

Construction Schedule

Following completion of environmental review and issuance of all appropriate permits, the proposed decommissioning Project would be executed over two to three seasons and would require approximately 5 to 7 months of work per season (up to 20 months total) to complete. There is no proposed construction schedule or start year: the start and end dates will be dependent upon completion of the CEQA process, Commission decision to implement the proposed Project or an alternative, associated regulatory permitting timeframes, and the availability of the required highly specialized marine construction equipment.

Most offshore decommissioning tasks would take place 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The work windows for the beach crossing and surf zone removals would be dictated by the low tide events allowing heavy equipment access to the beach for approximately four hours at a time. Some nighttime and/or weekend work may be required for the beach crossing and surf zone tasks due to the progression of tides or during critical operations.

Construction Staging Area, Equipment, Public Access to Beaches

Offshore equipment would be utilized and stored on their selected vessels or temporarily staged on Platform Holly. During removal of the onshore pipeline crossings, equipment would be staged near the 12th hole of the Sand Piper Golf Course or the Bacara Resort fire road access gate to facilitate access to the

beach. Public access to Haskell's Beach would be maintained throughout the nearshore and onshore pipeline crossing removal work, however access to some areas will be restricted for safety purposes during this activity.

Proper scheduling, agency and public notifications, and posting of access limitations would be made in advance to inform the public of construction operations and possible temporary closures.

Standard Practices

Standard safety and environmental practices would be implemented throughout the decommissioning phase of the proposed Project. The approved contractor would implement site-specific construction mitigation plans, safety plans, a traffic management plan, equipment refueling plans, and habitat protection plans, among other site-specific plans. These plans would develop the standard practices and operational procedures necessary for protection of the environment, personnel, and the public.

Oil Spill Response Capability and Emergency Response Equipment

Initial response oil spill containment equipment would be located at the Platform and onshore staging area, as well as on each vessel. The onshore staging area would include a fully equipped spill response trailer stocked with items which may include:

- bales of sorbent pads, boom, sweep, and oil snares
- Komara Disc Skimmer with power pack and hoses
- 55-gallon drums for waste
- drum liners and plastic bags
- plastic sheeting
- decontamination pools with brushes
- assortment of hand tools and personal protective equipment
- traffic cones and delineators
- light plants

In addition to the above measures, CSLC would develop a Project-specific Oil Spill Contingency Plan that would detail response procedures, training and drills for the covered facilities, spill response capabilities, and Incident Command Structure.

PERMITS AND AGENCY COORDINATION

In addition to the action by the CSLC, the Project may require permits and approvals from other reviewing authorities and regulatory agencies that may have oversight over aspects of the proposed Project activities, including, but not limited to, those listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Potential Responsible, Coordinating, and Consultation Agencies/Entities

Local & Regional	County of Santa Barbara Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBAPCD) Joint Oil Fisheries Liaison Office (JO/FLO)
State	California Coastal Commission (CCC) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA – NMFS) U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

SCOPE OF THE EIR

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15060, the CSLC staff conducted a preliminary review of the proposed Project and determined that there is a potential for significant impacts resulting from the proposed Project. A preliminary list of environmental issues to be discussed in the EIR is provided below. Additional issues may be identified at the public scoping meeting and in written comments as part of the CEQA process. The CSLC invites comments and suggestions on the scope and content of the environmental analysis, including the significant environmental issues and mitigation measures that should be included in the EIR.

The CSLC uses the following designations when examining the potential for impacts.

Potentially Significant Impact	Any impact that could be significant, and for which feasible mitigation must be identified and implemented. If any potentially significant impacts are identified but cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the impact would be *significant and unavoidable*; if any potentially significant impacts are identified for which feasible, enforceable mitigation measures are developed and imposed to reduce said impacts to below applicable significance thresholds, the impact would be *less than significant with mitigation*.
Less than Significant Impact	Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to the applicable significance threshold and therefore would not require mitigation.
No Impact	The Project would not result in any impact to the resource area considered.
Beneficial Impact	The Project would provide an improvement to the associated environment in comparison to the baseline information.

The estimations of impact levels used for this NOP are based solely on preliminary documents. Impact levels may change, and additional impacts may be identified during preparation of the EIR as more information is obtained.

Alternatives Analysis

State CEQA Guidelines require an EIR to:

…describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project, but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives (§ 15126.6). The State CEQA Guidelines also require that the EIR evaluate a "no project" alternative and, under specific circumstances, designate an environmentally superior alternative from among the remaining alternatives.

The EIR will:

- Identify alternatives based on the environmental analysis and information received during scoping
- Provide the basis for selecting alternatives that are feasible and that would reduce significant impacts associated with the proposed Project
- Provide a detailed explanation of why any alternatives were rejected from further analysis

- Evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives including the "no project" alternative

Alternatives Identified Prior to NOP Scoping

The identification and refinement of alternatives will continue during the preparation of the EIR. Alternatives may include those identified during discussions with various stakeholders, alternatives that address potentially significant impacts identified in the EIR analysis, as well as alternatives that will be identified during the public scoping period. The following provides a summary of alternatives currently under consideration.

Partial Removal

The Partial Removal Alternative would include removal of the Platform topsides and jacket using an anchored HLV to -85 feet below the water surface. A depth of -85 feet was selected based on U.S. Coast Guard recommendations to prevent navigational hazards. However, the bottom of the Platform jacket, including the existing shell mounds, the two seep tents, and pipelines to shore would be abandoned in place. Similar to the proposed Project, the seep tent appurtenances, power cables, and any Project-related debris would be removed offshore. Pipeline crossings would also be removed onshore. This alternative is being considered to reduce Project execution timing and any associated impacts related to removal of the structures proposed for abandonment in place.

No Project (as required by CEQA)

Platform Holly would not undergo any modifications. All existing structures would remain in place, including the platform, pipelines and cables, seep tents, and shell mounds. The platform would remain in caretaker status. The No Project alternative would not fulfill a key Project objective regarding fulfillment of the decommissioning responsibility of the former lease.

Currently Identified Potential Environmental Impacts

A preliminary list of environmental resources to be discussed in the EIR is provided below. Additional issues may be identified at the public scoping meeting, and in written comments, as part of the CEQA process. The CSLC invites comments and suggestions on the scope and content of the environmental analysis, including the significant environmental issues and mitigation measures that should be included in the EIR.

Environmental Resource Area	Anticipated Analysis of Proposed Project Impacts
Aesthetics	The analysis will examine proposed Project impacts resulting from visual impacts from several representative viewpoints from offshore and onshore receptors. The removal of the Platform and exposed pipelines/power cables across the shoreline is anticipated to have a beneficial long-term impact to aesthetics.
Agriculture/ Forestry	The proposed Project is not located within an area containing agriculture or forestry resources.
Air Quality/GHG	The analysis will examine emissions of criteria air pollutants and dust generated from decommissioning activities. The analysis will examine proposed Project emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) resulting from decommissioning activities.
Biological Resources	The analysis will examine potential decommissioning impacts (e.g., permanent loss or temporary disturbance to vegetation and wildlife habitat). The analysis will also examine proposed Project activities on federally or State-listed species or other sensitive species; conflicts with any local policies on biological resources; and any conflicts with local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans.
Cultural Resources	The analysis will examine proposed Project impacts to historic and architectural resources due to ground disturbance during decommissioning.
Cultural Resources – Tribal	In accordance with Assembly Bill 52 and CEQA requirements, the analysis will address the presence of and impacts to tribal cultural resources in consultation with Native American Tribes.
Energy	The proposed Project does not anticipate the potential for wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.
Geology and Coastal Processes	The analysis will examine potential decommissioning impacts primarily associated with the potential for soil erosion and natural coastal processes.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	The analysis will examine hazards and hazardous materials resulting from the proposed Project's decommissioning activities (e.g., waste management and potential for accidental release of hazardous materials).

Environmental Resource Area	Anticipated Analysis of Proposed Project Impacts
Hydrology and Water Quality	The analysis will examine potential decommissioning-related impacts to erosion and sedimentation, groundwater, and marine water quality.
Land Use and Planning	The analysis will examine the County's General Plan and Local Coastal Program for applicable policies and standards as it relates to the decommissioning.
Mineral Resources	The Platform is already shut-in and disconnected from the South Ellwood Field. Therefore, the proposed decommissioning would not affect baseline conditions with respect to mineral resources.
Noise	The analysis will examine proposed Project impacts to ambient noise levels resulting from decommissioning activities.
Population and Housing	The proposed Project is temporary and would neither induce substantial population growth in the area nor displace any people or housing units.
Public Services	The proposed Project is temporary and would not likely result in substantial demand for law enforcement, fire protection, and other public services.
Recreation	The analysis will examine proposed Project's impacts to recreational activities and beach access during and after decommissioning activities.
Transportation and Traffic	The analysis will examine the proposed Project's impacts to transportation and public access to roads and highways.
Utilities and Service Systems	The proposed Project is temporary and would not result in additional demand for water or wastewater treatment. An analysis of potential receiving capabilities with respect to solid waste disposal services will be evaluated.
Wildfire	The proposed Project area is located primarily offshore and outside of high fire hazard severity zones as identified by CAL FIRE.

IMPORTANT NOTES TO COMMENTERS

1. If you submit written comments, you are encouraged to submit electronic copies by email to CEQA.comments@slc.ca.gov and write "Platform Holly Decommissioning Project NOP Comments" in the subject line of your email.

2. Before including your mailing or email address, telephone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that the entire comment - including personal identifying information - may become publicly available, including in the EIR and posted on the Internet. The CSLC will make available for inspection, in their entirety, all comments submitted by organizations, businesses, or individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

3. If you represent a public agency, please provide the name, email address, and telephone number for the contact person in your agency for this EIR.

4. If you require a sign language interpreter, or other reasonable accommodation for a disability, as defined by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act and California Fair Employment and Housing Act, in order to participate in the scoping meeting, please contact the CSLC staff person listed below at least 5 days in advance of the meeting to arrange for such accommodation.

5. If you require translation assistance in Spanish, please contact the CSLC staff person listed below at least 10 days in advance of the meeting to arrange for such accommodation.

6. Please contact the CSLC staff person listed in this NOP at christine.day@slc.ca.gov or (916) 562-0027 if you have any questions.

Signature: _____ Date: January 22, 2026

Christine Day
Senior Environmental Scientist