

 <p>air pollution control district SANTA BARBARA COUNTY</p>	<b>Case No / Date</b>	<b>2026-06-I</b>	<b>06/12/2026</b>
	<b>Petitioner</b>	<b>Sable Offshore Corp.</b>	
	<b>Permit #</b>	<b>Part 70/PTO 9102-R7</b>	
	<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>05/22/2026</b>	
	<b>Time Rec'd</b>	<b>1614 hours</b>	
<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>			

**BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD  
OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Sable Offshore Corp. for an Interim )  
Variance from District Rule 206, Part )  
70/Permit to Operate 9102-R7, )  
Conditions 9.C.3.a, 9.C.3.b.i and )  
9.C.18 (Unplanned Flaring Only). )  
)

**H.B. Case No. 2026-06-I**

**VARIANCE FINDINGS**

**AND ORDER**

Sable Offshore Corp. (Petitioner) filed a Petition for Interim and 90-Day Variances on May 22, 2026. A hearing of the Interim Variance Petition was held on June 12, 2026. Patrice Surmeier and Kevin Brown represented the Petitioner, Aimee Long represented the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District), and Terence Dressler represented the Hearing Board for this Interim Variance Hearing.

This matter having been fully presented and duly considered, the Hearing Board makes the following findings and gives the following reasons for its decision.

**HEARING**

1. Notice of the Hearing was duly given in the manner and for the time required by law.
2. Sworn testimony and argument on behalf of the Petitioner and the Air Pollution Control Officer were made, received, and considered.
3. A nuisance as defined in District Rule 303 is not expected to occur as a result of this Variance.
4. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 42359.5, “good cause” exists for the granting of the Petitioner’s request for an Interim Variance.

5. If, due to reasons beyond the control of the Petitioner, compliance is not achieved during this Variance period, additional relief will be sought.
6. District staff supports the Petition as conditioned below.

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Petitioner operates the equipment described in the Petition at Platform Heritage located in the Santa Ynez Unit on lease tract OCS P-0182 approximately 25 miles west of the City of Santa Barbara, California.
2. Platform Heritage is an eight leg, 60 well slot platform. The platform is equipped with a waste gas flaring system for planned and unplanned flaring events.
3. The equipment described in the Petition, the unplanned flare (APCD Device ID 102385), is utilized for unplanned flaring events.
4. The Petitioner's permit limits unplanned flaring event volumes for the unplanned flare (APCD Device ID 102385).
5. Prior to restart operations, the Petitioner conducted system inspections, tested operation of all devices and mechanical equipment, and conducted maintenance of equipment in all areas of the platform. In addition, the Petitioner conducted well surveys to evaluate well status and conditions.
6. On March 23, 2026, the Petitioner restarted operations of the equipment.
7. On March 31, 2026, the Petitioner began well production.
8. Since the equipment startup, the platform has experienced an unexpected number of equipment malfunctions, onshore and offshore balancing issues, and well production issues which are related to restart of the platform, and have resulted in an increase in unplanned flaring events.
9. In addition, there have been unforeseen issues with the reestablishment of sweet gas well production, causing an increase in the unplanned flaring events.
10. All disassociated produced gas is currently being reinjected since gas cannot be sent to shore via the gas pipeline at this time. Produced gas that cannot be injected must be flared until the gas line to shore is reestablished.
11. On May 22, 2026, the Petitioner exceeded the quarterly unplanned flaring event volume. As a result, the Petitioner requested variance coverage for the remainder of the quarter.

**FINDINGS**

1. Without Variance coverage, the Petitioner will be in violation of District Rule 206, Part 70/Permit to Operate 9102-R7, Conditions 9.C.3.a., 9.C.b.i. and 9.C.18 (Unplanned Flaring Only).
2. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 42359.5, “good cause” exists for the granting of Petitioner’s request for an Interim Variance.

**THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS,** as follows:

That an Interim Variance be granted for operating the Petitioner’s flare during unplanned flaring events in violation of the quarterly limit, which is in violation of District Rule 206, Part 70/Permit to Operate 9102-R7, Conditions 9.C.3.a., 9.C.b.i. and 9.C.18 (Unplanned Flaring Only), from May 22, 2026 through June 30, 2026, or the date compliance is achieved, whichever occurs first, with the following conditions:

1. Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Hearing Board and District, to [variance@sbcapcd.org](mailto:variance@sbcapcd.org), by July 15, 2026. The report shall include the date compliance was achieved, date, time, duration and volume of each unplanned flaring event and totaled for the variance duration, and, actual excess emissions (lb/day), if any, that occurred during the variance period.
2. Petitioner shall monitor, record, and quantify, on a daily basis, all emissions related to the granting of this Variance.
3. Petitioner shall retain the obligation to comply with all other local, state, and federal regulations not specifically referenced in the Order.
4. Failure to abide by all conditions of this Order shall subject the Petitioner receiving the variance to penalties set forth in Health and Safety Code section 42402.
5. In accordance with District Fees Rule 210, the Petitioner shall pay excess emission fees for each additional ton of pollutant emissions, or portion thereof, allowed as the result of the issuance of this Variance.
6. The Environmental Protection Agency does not recognize California’s Variance Program; therefore, this Variance does not protect the Petitioner from Federal Enforcement actions.

7. Each day during any portion of which a violation occurs is a separate offense.

**DATED:** 06/12/2026

*Terence E. Dressler*

Terence E. Dressler (Jun 12, 2026 16:01:33 PDT)

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Terence Dressler  
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District  
Hearing Board