

 <p>air pollution control district SANTA BARBARA COUNTY</p>	Case No / Date	2026-02-E	02/18/2026
	Petitioner	Sable Offshore Corp.	
	Permit #	Part 70/PTO 5651-R7	
	Date Rec'd	2/11/2026	
	Time Rec'd	1712 hours	
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			

**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)
Emergency Variance from District)
Rule, 206, Part 70/Permit to)
Operate 5651-R7, Conditions)
9.C.8.a.i, 9.C.8.a.iii, and 9.37.o (*Sulfur*)
Removal Efficiency Plan))

H.B. Case No. 2026-02-E

VARIANCE FINDINGS

AND ORDER

Sable Offshore Corp. (Petitioner) filed a Petition for an Emergency Variance on February 11, 2026. A hearing of the Emergency Variance Petition was held on February 18, 2026. Patrice Surmeier represented the Petitioner, Aimee Long represented the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District), and Terence Dressler represented the Hearing Board for this Emergency 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. If, due to reasons beyond the control of the Petitioner, compliance is not achieved during this Variance period, additional relief will be sought.
5. District staff supports the Petition as conditioned below.

BACKGROUND

1. The Petitioner operates the equipment described in the Petition at Sable Offshore Corp.'s (Sable) Las Flores Canyon Oil and Gas Processing Plant (LFC) located approximately 25 miles northwest of the City of Santa Barbara, California.
2. The Petitioner's main operating permit, PT 70/PTO 5651-R7, authorizes the operation of equipment and processes located at the LFC, which is part of the Sable Santa Ynez Unit (SYU) Project stationary source. The SYU Project stationary source produces oil and gas from three platforms (Platforms Hondo, Harmony and Heritage) located offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel.
3. The Petitioner's onshore facility, LFC, is subdivided into the following plants: Oil Treating Plant (OTP), Stripping Gas Treating Plant (SGTP), Transportation Terminal (TT) and cogeneration Power Plant (CPP).
4. The equipment listed in the petition is associated with the Stripping Gas Treating Plant (SGTP) which produces a sweet fuel gas for use in the onshore facilities. Natural gas liquids (NGL) and sulfur are also produced. Acid gases from the fuel gas amine system, NGL sweetening system, and OTP water treating system are treated in a Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU) (a combination of the Claus and tail gas units). A small quantity of acid gas remaining after cleanup in the tail gas unit is incinerated at the Waste Gas Incinerator (EAL-4603).
5. The Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU), consisting of a Claus Unit and a Tail Gas Cleanup Unit (TGCU), followed by a Waste Gas Incinerator (WGI), is designed to recover sulfur in the inlet gas.
6. On February 11, 2026, the Petitioner exceeded the permitted SO₂ Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and lb/hr mass emissions limits at the WGI.
7. The Petitioner is experiencing unexpected shutdowns of the TGCU in the SGTP. The initial investigation indicates there is too much condensate in the steam injection which is extinguishing the TGCU flame. The steam is necessary to control the TGCU combustion temperature and chemistry.
8. At this time, the Petitioner has not been able to determine the cause of the excess condensate in the steam. As a result, the Petitioner has requested variance coverage to allow for continued operation of the TGCU and additional time to troubleshoot the issue and make the necessary repairs.
9. The SO₂ emissions are continuously monitored with the SO₂ analyzer installed on the WGI.
10. The excess emissions, if any, are expected to be approximately 3.19 lbs SO₂ during the

granting of this variance request.

FINDINGS

1. Without Variance coverage, the Petitioner will be in violation of District Rule, 206, Part 70/Permit to Operate 5651-R7, Conditions 9.C.8.a.i, 9.C.8.a.iii, and 9.37.o (*Sulfur Removal Efficiency Plan*).
2. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 42359.5, “good cause” exists for the granting of Petitioner’s request for an Emergency Variance.

THEREFORE, THE HEARING BOARD ORDERS, as follows:

That an Emergency Variance be granted for continued operations of the Tail Gas Cleanup Unit (TGPU) in violation of District Rule, 206, Part 70/Permit to Operate 5651-R7, 9.C.8.a.i, 9.C.8.a.iii, and 9.37.o (*Sulfur Removal Efficiency Plan*) from February 11, 2026 through March 12, 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, by April 2, 2026. The report shall include the date compliance was achieved, the cause of the violation, corrective action taken, SO2 daily emissions (lb/day) and totaled for the duration of coverage.
2. Petitioner shall retain the obligation to comply with all other local, state, and federal regulations not specifically referenced in the Order.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The Environmental Protection Agency does not recognize California’s Variance Program; therefore, this Variance does not protect the Petitioner from Federal Enforcement actions.
6. Each day during any portion of which a violation occurs is a separate offense.

DATED: 02/18/2026

Terence E. Dressler

Terence E. Dressler (Feb 18, 2026 15:51:53 PST)

Terence Dressler
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
Hearing Board