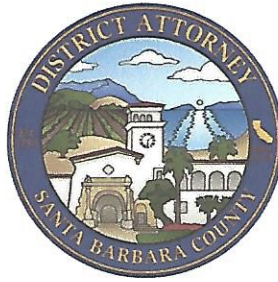


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 05-356

RELEASE NUMBER

May 17, 2016

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley* JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

May 17, 2016

Re: *Indictment of Plains All American Pipeline on Criminal Charges Resulting from the Refugio Oil Spill May 2015.*

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that Plains All American Pipeline has been indicted by a grand jury on 46 criminal charges related to the May 2015 Refugio Oil Spill. On May 19, 2015, as widely reported in the media at the time, a 24-inch subterranean crude oil pipeline, commonly referred to as Line 901, ruptured. The rupture caused the release of raw crude oil from the pipeline, which then surged down a culvert under U.S. Highway 101 and into the Pacific Ocean, off the Gaviota coastline, near Refugio State Beach. Approximately 140,000 gallons of crude petroleum were released into the environment; the spill plume reached nearly nine miles out into the Pacific Ocean. Petroleum related to this release has been located throughout the Santa Barbara County coastline.

In response, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the State Attorney General's Office, conducted a criminal investigation. This investigation ultimately included the assistance of additional state and local agencies.

After approximately 10 months of receiving evidence and hearing from dozens of witnesses, on May 16, 2016, a Santa Barbara County Grand Jury indicted corporate defendant, Plains All American Pipeline, of Houston, Texas, on 46 charges, including 4 felony charges of knowingly discharging a pollutant into state waters, and 42 misdemeanor charges including failure to notify proper authorities, as well as numerous Fish and Game Code violations.

An individual employee of the company was also indicted on some of the charges; he is James Buchanan, age 41, Environmental & Regulatory Compliance Specialist.

All defendants, corporate and individual, will be arraigned in Department 6 of the Santa Barbara Superior Court on June 2, 2016.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley stated, "These indictments came as a result of many local and state agencies working together to present both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence to a hard-working Santa Barbara County Grand Jury. Their indictments are a response to the evidence presented and speak to the alleged criminal culpability of both the corporation and an individual who are alleged to have caused harm to Santa Barbara County's magnificent natural surroundings and death to some of its majestic wildlife."

The Environmental Protection Division of the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting our natural resources and public health. Along with our state and local agencies we will continue to use all legal means necessary to bring those who endanger our local environment to justice.

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