



Carpinteria Project Update: Kittie Bailard 1

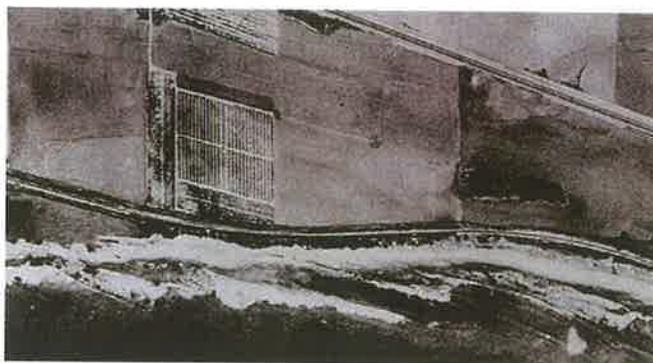
BACKGROUND

Santa Barbara County's offshore oil platforms are familiar to most residents, but these structures representing current operations only tell half the story of oil production in the area. This was a rich oil-producing area from the early 1900's through the 1950's. Many local families made their livelihoods in jobs associated with the industry.

In addition to the drilled oil sites, there were and still are many naturally-occurring seeps, where oil in the soil makes its way to the surface. Seeps are common on the beaches of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and are also found on some inland sites.

In the height of the oil production era, groups of wells were located together on sites leased for mineral rights. Each oil lease had a name that became its location identifier. Oil drilling was more speculative than scientific in the early days, and many test wells had disappointing results. One of these was on a lease named "Kittie Bailard 1," located in present day Carpinteria.

The Continental Oil Company drilled at Kittie Bailard 1 in 1929, reporting a "dry hole" outcome. The well was plugged and abandoned. In October 2000, the Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County successfully completed their work to purchase the picturesque 52-acre property for open space preservation. The property includes the former Kittie Bailard site. The City of Carpinteria owns and manages the open-space preserve under a conservation easement that limits development on the Bluffs to walking trails and a bikeway, along with Viola Fields, a six-acre baseball, softball and soccer sports field area developed by the city.



Property aerial view, 1938

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Through a series of acquisitions, assets and liabilities of the former Continental Oil Company are now owned by the ConocoPhillips Company.

For a number of years, a small area of oil seepage was noticed near the former Kittie Bailard oil lease. In December of 2011, ConocoPhillips was contacted by the Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). DOGGR is the State agency with oversight of oil field operations. While it is not known whether the seep was naturally occurring or related to past operations at the wellhead, ConocoPhillips moved quickly to address the problem.



Seep location aerial view 2012



Affected area with protective fencing in place

ACTIONS TAKEN

Within 24 hours of DOGGR notification, ConocoPhillips conducted an investigation of the site, contacted City of Carpinteria officials, and notified the Santa Barbara County Fire department. All parties agreed that the seep presented no imminent danger, and the company installed fencing around the small area (20' x 25') to prevent people and wildlife from contacting the material on the surface of the grass. Although the material is quite thick and stationary like many natural seeps in the area, ConocoPhillips added an erosion control barrier to keep the seep material from moving with storm water runoff.

NEXT STEPS

ConocoPhillips has submitted a work plan to the city and received an access agreement to conduct further work on the site. Once the specific location of the former well is identified, crews will excavate around the wellhead to determine whether it needs repair. Any soil affected by oil will be removed and, if needed, the well will be resealed. All work will be approved and monitored by state, county, and city officials.

ConocoPhillips is committed to protecting the health and safety of our workers, the public and the environment near the work zone. As a precaution, the work plan includes using air-monitoring devices so we can identify and address unexpected air quality issues from the work.

ConocoPhillips and its contractors will make a concerted effort to minimize overall disruption, and to complete the project safely and efficiently.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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