

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Importation or Exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas or Electric Energy; Applications, Authorizations, etc.: Mexico Pacific Ltd. LLC

**Comment On:** DOE-HQ-2025-0240-0001

Importation or Exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas or Electric Energy; Applications, Authorizations, etc.: Mexico Pacific Ltd. LLC

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## General Comment

I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed gas pipeline project in the Gulf of California. While I understand the potential economic drivers behind such an initiative, I must urge you to consider the severe and irreversible negative impacts this project would have on the region's extraordinary marine ecosystem, particularly its globally significant whale populations.

The Gulf of California, often called the "aquarium of the world," is a critical habitat and migratory corridor for a remarkable diversity of cetaceans. It is a vital breeding and calving ground for species like the gray whale and a feeding area for some of the world's largest animals, including blue whales and fin whales. The proposed pipeline and associated infrastructure would introduce a host of threats that directly contradict our collective responsibility to protect this sensitive environment.

The primary concerns are as follows:

- Noise Pollution and Disruption of Communication:** Marine mammals, especially whales, rely on sound for all aspects of their lives—navigating, finding food, communicating with their young, and mating. The construction and operation of a gas pipeline would generate significant and sustained underwater noise from seismic surveys, trenching, pile driving, and the continuous operation of pumping stations. This acoustic pollution can disorient whales, disrupt their ability to communicate, and force them to abandon critical habitats. Chronic stress from noise has been linked to suppressed immune systems and reduced fertility in whale populations.
- Increased Maritime Traffic and Ship Strikes:** The project would necessitate a substantial increase in large vessel traffic, including LNG tankers, navigating through the Gulf. This surge in shipping would create a heightened risk of ship strikes, a known and lethal threat to large whales. The proposed routes for these vessels often overlap directly with the migration paths and feeding areas of these magnificent creatures, putting them in harm's way.
- Habitat Degradation and Chemical Contamination:** Pipeline construction involves significant disturbance of the seabed, which can destroy sensitive habitats and disrupt the delicate marine food web. Furthermore, the risk of accidental leaks or spills, though often downplayed, is a constant and serious threat. Gas leaks can release toxic substances into the water, poisoning marine life. While natural gas may seem less harmful than oil, it dissolves in water and can be highly toxic to fish and other organisms that form the base of the whale's food chain.
- Long-term Climate Impacts:** Beyond the immediate environmental risks, the pipeline project would facilitate the continued extraction and export of fossil fuels. This directly contributes to the global climate crisis, which poses a long-term existential threat to all marine ecosystems. Rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and altered food supplies are already impacting whale populations worldwide.

The Gulf of California is a UNESCO World Heritage Site precisely because of its unparalleled biodiversity and ecological importance. Allowing this pipeline to proceed would be a betrayal of the international commitment to protect this area. It would jeopardize not only the health of these whales but also the vibrant local communities and economies that depend on ecotourism and sustainable fisheries. I implore you to reconsider this project. The long-term costs to the environment and the irreversible damage to these vulnerable whale populations far outweigh any short-term economic gains. Let us choose a path that preserves the "aquarium of the world" for future generations.

And even though The Sloth Institute protects the jungle environments we are committed to support other communities in protecting marine environment.