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

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General Comment

The Gulf of California, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, supports over 900 fish species and nearly a third of all known marine mammal species.

Critically endangered species such as the vaquita marina (*Phocoena sinus*), with fewer than 10 individuals remaining, and the blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) rely on this region for survival. The construction and operation of gas infrastructure would introduce noise pollution, increased vessel traffic, and the risk of methane leaks or spills, all of which can severely disrupt feeding, migration, and reproduction patterns of these species.

The economic value of the Gulf's ecosystem services—including fisheries, tourism, and carbon sequestration—is estimated at over \$22 billion USD annually (Sala et al., PNAS, 2018). Any degradation resulting from the project could lead to long-term, irreversible ecological and financial losses that outweigh the short-term economic benefits.

Viable and more sustainable alternatives exist, including:

Cross-border investments in solar energy and battery storage in northern Mexico and Baja California;

A shift in focus toward renewable energy exchange between the U.S. and Mexico instead of fossil fuel dependency;

A requirement for a comprehensive, independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with full public and Indigenous consultation.

Given the global significance of the Gulf of California and its role in biodiversity conservation, I respectfully urge U.S. authorities to reject or reconsider the approval of this project until it can be demonstrated that no harm will be done to these critical marine habitats and species.

Hope my perspectives provide valuable insights.

Thank you for considering this evidence-based objection to the Sahuaro Project.