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Judge Approves \$230 Million Settlement for Fishing Industry Members And Shoreline Residents Damaged By Plains All American Pipeline's 2015 Santa Barbara Oil Spill

Santa Barbara, Calif. (Date)—On September 20, Federal District Court Judge Philip S. Gutierrez granted final approval of a combined \$230 million class action settlement arising out of Plains All American Pipeline's 2015 Refugio Oil Spill on the Santa Barbara coast. The court's approval clears the way for the settlement administrator to begin processing and paying claims submitted by affected fishers and property owners. The settlement was achieved by Class Counsel Cappello & Noël LLP, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, Keller Rohrback LLP, and Audet & Partners. (*Keith Andrews et al. v. Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.*, Case No. 2:15-cv-04113-PSG-JEMx.)

The settlement includes \$184 million to a class of fishers and processors who operated in the areas impacted by the oil spill, as well as \$46 million to compensate owners and lessees of property affected by the spill. These amounts, net of attorneys' fees, costs, and administration expenses, will be distributed to class members who timely submit claims, based on a court-approved distribution plan.

Individuals who believe they may be eligible may contact the court-appointed administrator, JND Legal, to obtain further information about the settlement, determine whether they are members of the class and, if so, submit their claim forms. **The deadline to file a claim is October 31, 2022.** Information about the settlement, including copies of the claim form and instructions on how to submit a claim, are available via the dedicated settlement website (<https://www.PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com>), or by contacting JND via email (info@PlainsOilSpillSettlement.com), telephone (1-844-202-9486) or mail (Plains Oil Spill Settlement c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91450, Seattle, WA 98111).

Before the spill, 130 miles of Plains-operated pipeline was used to transport crude oil from the Santa Barbara coast to inland refineries in California. Due to failed maintenance and extensive pipeline corrosion, the pipeline ruptured and spilled, devastating the fishing industry and soiling coastal properties from Santa Barbara County to Los Angeles County. Plains was found criminally liable in 2018 for the oil spill, and this civil settlement was reached as the parties prepared for a civil jury trial slated for June 2022.

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Copies of the final settlement documents, and other information, is available on the settlement website.