

## **Greka settles for \$2M after oil spills, leaks**

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Greka Oil & Gas will pay \$2 million to Santa Barbara County in installments over several years to settle claims that the company repeatedly violated county regulations in its onshore drilling operations, the Santa Maria Times reported.

Greka, based in Santa Maria, did not admit any wrongdoing in the settlement.

The county had accused the company of negligence in managing its oil and gas drilling, pipelines and storage facilities in northern Santa Barbara County, resulting in spills and leaks.

The settlement, announced March 16, requires Greka to pay \$400,000 to the county by April 14, officials said. The rest is to be paid in 42 installments until March of 2015. Greka is also required to increase secondary containment areas around its operations