

Three Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export terminals planned by American investors are intended on the Sea of Cortez that threaten marine ecosystems, community safety, and recreational and commercial fishing of the region. All three are massive export projects, in contrast with the very small existing [New Fortress Energy LNG terminal in La Paz](#).

When included with additional LNG export terminals proposed in other areas of Mexico, the facilities would catapult Mexico [as the fourth largest natural gas exporter in the world](#) if all the projects are operational.

Natural gas for Mexico's LNG export terminals will be United States sourced, including Oneok's proposed [Saguaro pipeline from the Waha hub in the Texas Permian Basin](#) to Mexico.

LNG is natural gas that has been condensed into a liquid form by reducing its temperature to  $-260^{\circ}\text{F}$ , known as liquefaction. LNG takes up about  $1/600^{\text{th}}$  of the volume of natural gas in its natural, vapor state, making it more economical to ship across oceans. Liquefaction at terminals like the three proposed for the Sea of Cortez involve large heat exchangers, arranged at the facility in a connected series, called trains. [The recent explosion in LNG exports have resulted in dramatic domestic energy price spikes](#) for American families.

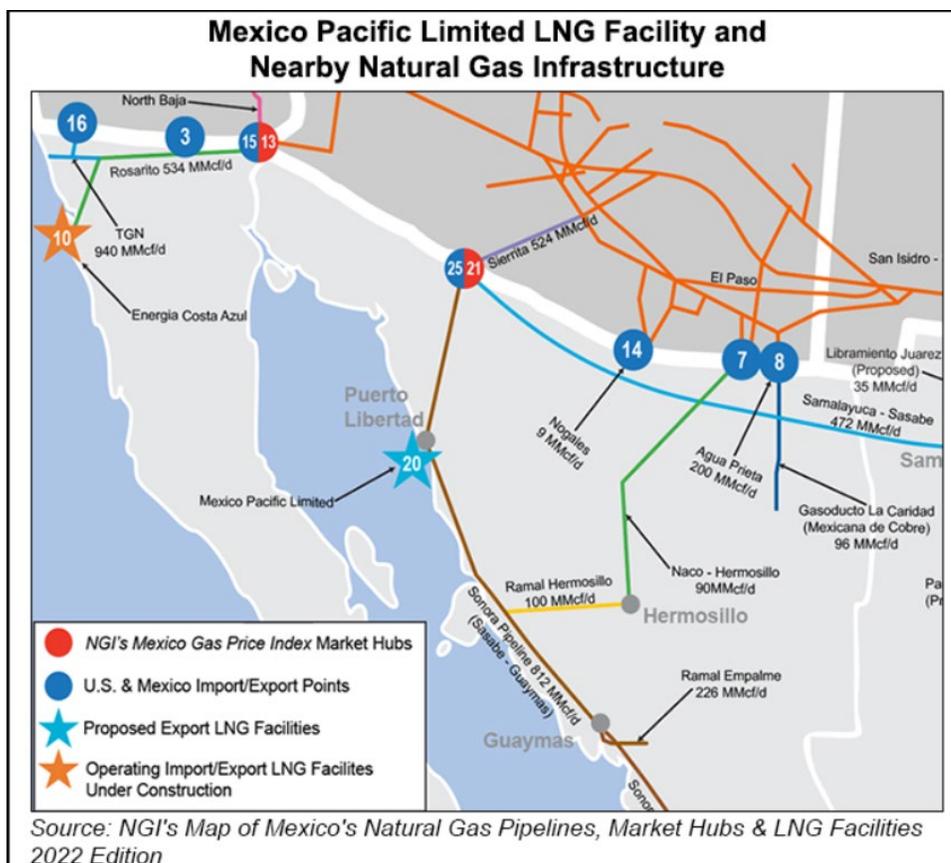


In order to stay below a 1.5°C temperature increase and avert the worst of the climate crisis, the [International Energy Agency concludes](#) that new fossil fuel infrastructure such as [LNG facilities cannot be built](#). In [addition to greenhouse gas emissions](#), LNG terminals release air pollutants that are [hazardous to human health](#), including particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. The massive, specialized LNG tankers are hazard risks, requiring safety and security zones in navigable waters surrounding outbound LNG tankers. And in June 2022, the [Freeport LNG export terminal in Texas suffered a catastrophic explosion](#), underscoring the significant security risks with such facilities.

In the United States, the permitting and siting of LNG export terminals through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission takes on average three years—a comprehensive and expensive regulatory process that developers in Mexico are eager to avoid. Building on Mexico’s Sea of Cortez allows tankers to bypass the Panama Canal to get exports to [Asian markets](#), giving Mexican LNG projects an [80-cent advantage](#) over those built on the Gulf of Mexico.

Here are details on the three proposed Sea of Cortez LNG export terminals:

- Houston-based [Mexico Pacific Limited](#), which seeks to build the Saguaro Energía LNG export terminal at Puerto Libertad on the Sea of Cortez, is owned by [Quantum Energy Partners](#) (38.2%); New York City-based [AVAIO Capital](#) (24.3%); [Tortoise Capital Advisors](#) (11.2%); former Enron executive Thomas



White's [DKRW Energy Partners](#) (8%); former Cheniere Energy executive (and current Mexico Pacific President & CEO) Douglas D. Shanda (4.7%); [Sarah Bairstow](#) (4.5%); former [ConocoPhillips executive Page Maxson](#) (3.9%); [John R. Collett](#) (2.9%); and Joseph Dougherty (1%). Saguario would have capacity to export 14.1 metric tons of LNG a year. They have signed [binding takeaway agreements](#) with ExxonMobil and Shell. On December 28, 2022, Mexico Pacific applied for an authorization to export LNG from the U.S. Department of Energy (since 100% of the gas will be sourced from the United States). [The public can submit comments through April 3, 2023.](#)

- Texas-based [LNG Alliance Ltd](#) is developing Amigo LNG in Guaymas, Mexico on the Sea of Cortez [with capacity of 7.8 metric tons of LNG](#) a year, and expects to be [in service by 2026](#). LNG Alliance is [owned by Texan Muthu Chezhian](#).
- Directly across the Sea of Cortez from La Ventana is the proposed California-headquartered Vista Pacifico in Topolobampo, Mexico, with capacity to export 4 metric tons of LNG a year. It is owned by Sempra Energy (74.5%); ConocoPhillips (15%), the private equity firm KKR & Co. (7%), and the United Arab Emirates (3.5%). [In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy granted Vista Pacifico's request](#) to export U.S. natural gas.

