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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

***RE: AB 3214 (Limon) Oil Spill Criminal Penalties - SUPPORT***

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for AB 3214 (Limon), which would update the criminal penalties for companies that knowingly spill oil into state waters.

In 1968, the Santa Barbara coastline was covered with crude oil after equipment failure on an offshore oil platform. In 2015, the Santa Barbara coastline was again covered by oil from a leaking onshore pipeline that flowed into the ocean in Gaviota, which became the largest spill in over 25 years and severely damaged the coastal ecosystem and local economy.

AB 3214 adjusts current criminal penalties to account for inflation, and grants a court the flexibility to impose a criminal penalty of up to \$10,000 per gallon if the violator knowingly causes, or reasonably should have known that their actions would lead to an oil spill into state waters. Without a substantial deterrent, companies may be incentivized to cut corners, putting our environment and the local economy at risk.

AB 3214 makes it clear that there are real consequences when an entity reasonably should have known that their actions would result in a substantial oil spill into state waters. The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2020 Legislative Platform that includes the Oil and Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance Legislative Plank, which specifically states that the County will support legislation that allow for stronger enforcement actions, including increased penalties, to be imposed by the land use authority for oil & gas operators that are clearly in violation of permits and related entitlements.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 3214 (Limon). If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the

County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or  
NAnderson@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg  
*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on  
Appropriations  
Kirstin Kolpitcke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of  
Supervisors