

BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS

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September 11, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 3214 (Limon) Oil and gas: oil spills: fines and penalties – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on 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 Doubles specified maximum and minimum financial penalties for specified violations, including failing to notify specified state and federal agencies of the discharge of oil and the discharging of oil into waters of the state. It authorizes the court to also impose upon a person convicted of violating specified provisions of the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (act) a fine of up to \$1,000 dollars per gallon spilled in excess of 1,000 gallons of oil.

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 respectfully requests your signature on 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: Rachel Wagoner, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author  
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