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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Henry Stern
 Chair, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
 State Capitol, Room 5046
 Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Stern:

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, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
Katharine Moore, Consultant, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and
Water
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th 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