



June 3rd, 2014

California Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Fax: (916) 319-2115

RE: Support for DFW OSPR Statewide Oil Spill Program budget provisions (3600-50)

To the Honorable Nancy Skinner and Budget Conference Committee members,

Los Angeles Waterkeeper and the undersigned organizations, who collectively represent thousands of members dedicated to protecting our local waterways from pollution, are pleased to support 2014-15 state budget provisions for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) regarding inland oil spills. We believe that these provisions will facilitate efficient and effective responses to oil spills and will help protect our waterways from the potentially disastrous effects of such spills.

There has been a rapid increase in oil transport over land, due to significant increases in production of crude oil and gas from Tar Sands in Canada, the Bakken Shale in North Dakota, and increased production in Texas and other states. For example, annual crude oil by rail imports have dramatically increased from over 45,000 barrels in 2009 to almost 6.3 million barrels in 2013, an increase of 138 times as much crude being transported,¹ and this rapid expansion of crude by rail imports is expected to continue in the next few years. We have already seen an increase in spills associated with this rail transport -- in 2013 more oil was spilled in U.S. rail incidents than was spilled in the previous thirty-seven years combined.²

Prevention of oil spills is always the highest priority to protect our communities and natural resources. Nonetheless, due to significant threats to inland rivers and wetlands from increasing inland transport, we need to ensure that we are invested in safety and preparedness for all inland spills across California. Unfortunately current authority of OSPR for mandating preparedness measures is limited to facilities and transfers in marine waters, and currently does not extend inland. Further, although state law designates OSPR as the incident commander for both inland and marine oil spills, there is no dedicated

¹ California Energy Commission statistics California Energy Commission, Energy Almanac. Data found at: http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/petroleum/statistics/2013_crude_by_rail.html

² U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration data, see summary: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/01/20/215143/more-oil-spilled-from-trains-in.html>

funding for state-level emergency response to manage inland oil spills. OSPR also contributes to the statewide system of more than thirty facilities along the coast, called the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), which rapidly responds to and treats wildlife that have been affected by marine oil spills. Without the approval of this proposed budget, there is no funding for OWCN to respond to inland spills.

Please adopt the budget provisions that give OSPR the ability to efficiently and effectively regulate and respond to inland oil spills in California. Below is a list of benefits to the aquatic life, farms, towns, and cities of the State of California:

- This program addresses oil spills from all spill sources, not just rail, although rail transport is a recently emergent threat.
- This program is critical as there is no other state agency dedicated to oil spill response.
- This program will serve the industry by helping ensure that they are ready to respond to devastating oil spills and that their spills are addressed as effectively as possible to minimize impacts and costs.
- This program is modestly sized and will benefit from the successful experiences and structure of its marine programs as it expands to protect inland areas of California.

The OSPR Budget Proposal gives the state the ability to respond to inland oil spills:

- Extends existing \$0.065 fee per barrel to all crude oil transported to California refineries
- Authorizes use of OSPR response fund to pay for all petroleum spills into or threatening state waters
- Creates 38 new OSPR positions (field responders and support staff)
- Industry spill preparedness & response requirements to include:
 - Minimum response times and equipment
 - Oil spill drills and exercises
 - Wildlife and environmental protection and restoration planning
 - Cleanup contractor rating
 - Demonstration of financial ability to pay for response

Thank you for improving protections for our communities, waterways, and natural resources by adopting the budget provisions for the OSPR Statewide Oil Spill Program.



Sincerely,

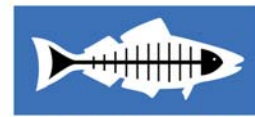
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