

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

As we write this, California is still reeling from the fires in Los Angeles. In addition, we face threats from the Trump Administration to expand oil drilling everywhere, including offshore California, and to gut federal policies and agencies that protect our environment and tackle the ongoing climate crisis. As we know all too well, fossil fuel-driven climate change is severely impacting California and setting the stage for unprecedented disasters like the one we just experienced in Los Angeles. The economic, environmental, and human costs in our state are immeasurable.

We applaud your efforts to stand up to the threat of new federal offshore oil leasing. However, California is facing another critical and even more pressing threat on our own shores. A new Texas oil company, Sable Offshore Corp., is attempting to restart massive oil and gas drilling and processing operating on the Gaviota Coast. This corrosion-prone pipeline was responsible for the Refugio oil spill in 2015 and has been out of operation since then following fishery closures, injuries and deaths to marine animals, and millions of dollars in lost recreational opportunities as a result of the spill. The operation includes three 1980s-era offshore drilling platforms, onshore processing facilities, and other equipment, including a heavily corroded pipeline that ruptured ten years ago, causing one of the worst oil spills in California history.

The spill destroyed thousands of acres of shoreline and subtidal habitats, killed untold numbers of animals, and shut down beaches, fisheries, and businesses. Oil spread 150 miles south, as far as Redondo Beach.

Prior to the oil spill, this project was also the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions on the Central Coast and impaired local and state efforts to meet our critical climate goals.

Fire risk is another significant concern of this proposal because the onshore processing facilities are in a high fire risk area. Since they shut down a decade ago, three wildfires have threatened the site. We don't want to see what happens to Santa Barbara County if one of them catches on fire while full of oil and gas.

Fortunately, this project cannot proceed unless it is approved by several state agencies, including the Fire Marshal, State Parks, California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and more. We write to share concerns that we have heard from our constituents on this issue in the hopes of a fair and transparent process as you consider a state waiver for the Sable pipeline.

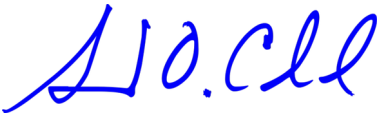
It is our understanding that none of the aforementioned state agencies have held formal public hearings or conducted environmental review, despite state-wide concerns about the safety, economic, environmental, and climate effects of Sable's proposal. The concerns we have heard from our constituents and potential requirements that we ask that you give full and fair consideration include the following:

- Require the Fire Marshal to reconsider the state waiver for the pipeline, conduct environmental review, and hold a public hearing¹;
- Require a coastal development permit for restart of the pipeline;
- Require State Parks to conduct environmental review and hold a public hearing prior to deciding whether to approve a new easement for the pipeline through Gaviota State Park.

In closing, we recognize and support your efforts to protect California from further oil development off our shores. Over the years, we have introduced legislation to permanently protect parts or all of California's beloved coasts now and for future generations. We celebrated with you when President Biden protected these areas using his authority. Let's also stand together to defend these actions as they face threats in Congress and the courts.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

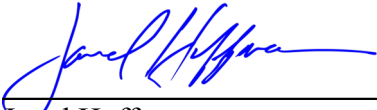


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

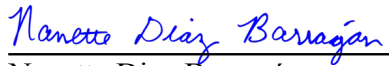
¹ See 49 U.S.C. § 60118(d), 60118(c)(B).



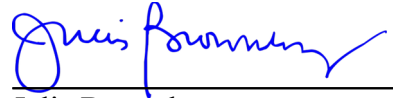
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



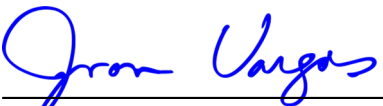
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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