



October 4, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Orange County Oil Spill - Request for Emergency Declaration**

Dear Governor Newsom:

Our worst nightmare has turned into reality upon learning that a broken pipeline operated by Beta Operating Co., a subsidiary of Amplify Energy, spewed more than 144,000 gallons of post-productive crude into the ocean along the Orange County coastline starting Friday, October 1, 2021. The environmental impacts of this oil spill have already been devastating to our delicate coastal marshlands and surrounding areas. Our local communities will be impacted by this oil spill for years to come in regards to economic impacts and access to our beautiful coast. We would like to thank you for your immediate response with the unified command team including DFW & CalOES working alongside our Federal and local partners. In response to the dire environmental and economic impacts, we call on you as Governor to declare a state of emergency in Orange County to cut red tape and help the state quickly mobilize all available resources.

On the Sunday emergency response call, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has already compared the damage to the Santa Barbara Refugio Oil Spill. A state of emergency declaration will be vital to prevent delays to necessary actions. Furthermore, a declaration will ensure that vital resources will be delivered to our local community to address emergency response and clean up. In regards to resources, we want to be clear that not one taxpayer dollar should pay for response and clean up. Amplify Energy, the responsible party, needs to be held accountable for all of the costs for management and clean up of this catastrophic failure.

As we move forward from immediate emergency response, we know that addressing the core issues at hand will require years of additional legislative work. There needs to be actions taken to ensure that response was timely and beyond adequate by the responsible party. We look forward to working with your team and our legislative colleagues to further ensure that such a disaster does not happen in the future.

We thank you for your consideration of our call for an emergency declaration on behalf of our constituents and our local wildlife. Furthermore, we would like to invite you to Orange County to survey the damage and meet with local leaders to discuss emergency response. We look forward to your continued partnership as we address this crisis.

Sincerely,



Cottie Petrie-Norris  
Assemblywoman, AD 74



Dave Min  
Senator, SD 37



Tom Umberg  
Senator, SD 34