

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

October 7, 2021

Tristin Brown, Interim Administrator  
Office of Pipeline Safety  
US Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Pipeline P00547 Incident-Orange County

Dear Mr. Brown:

We are writing to you concerning the Amplify Energy Corp. /BETA pipeline leak off the coast of Huntington Beach, which touches both of our districts. We appreciate the efforts by federal, state and local agencies and those of the Unified Command to focus on response and clean-up. We also know that there are many questions that have not yet been answered and that the investigatory process will proceed simultaneously with the ongoing response and clean-up efforts.

As Members of the California State Legislature, we are asking that the investigatory process be expeditious, comprehensive and as transparent as possible, recognizing the possibility of criminal and civil litigation. As you can imagine, our constituents who reside in coastal communities, local businesses, and those who visit our beautiful coastline are asking for answers about both the impacts and the causes of this oil spill.

As the investigatory process proceeds, we believe that a full review of what occurred before and after the leak is essential. This review must include the first reports of the presence of oil on the ocean surface to the time of reporting and response action from the pipeline operator. A determination as to when the National Response Center and state and local agencies were contacted should also be prioritized.

We also believe that a history of the BETA pipeline, its construction and its maintenance should be provided to the public for review. We also ask that you review the reports of vessels in the area that could have come in contact with the pipeline. As you know, there has been growing speculation that the pipeline damage may have been caused by an anchor drag. Media reports suggest that the Marine Exchange has extensive data regarding shipping traffic and anchoring in the region.

We are proud to represent one of the most beautiful stretches of the California coastline, with its pristine beaches and ecological wetlands. We are committed to protecting and preserving it in order for Californians and people around the world to be able to enjoy it for years to come.

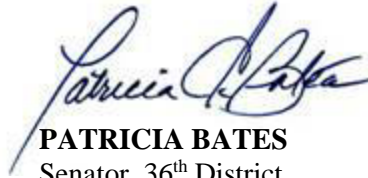
We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We thank the responding agencies and personnel for working diligently and transparently to mitigate the impacts of this spill as quickly as possible in order to protect our beautiful natural resources. We also appreciate their efforts to investigate this incident and to provide answers to the questions that the public is understandably asking.

Should you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact Assemblymember Janet Nguyen at (714) 843-4966 or at [assemblymember.nguyen@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.nguyen@assembly.ca.gov), and Senator Patricia Bates at (916) 651-4036 or at [senator.bates@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.bates@senate.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



**JANET NGUYEN**  
Assemblymember, 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
California State Legislature



**PATRICIA BATES**  
Senator, 36<sup>th</sup> District  
California State Legislature

cc Governor Gavin Newsom  
Charlton Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Vice Admiral Michael McAllister, Commander Pacific Area, U.S. Coast Guard  
Rear Admiral Peter Gautier, Deputy Commander Pacific Area, U.S. Coast Guard  
Assemblymember Luz Rivas, Chair of Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair of Budget Sub Committee #3  
Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Director, State Lands Commission  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Carlsbad  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Dana Point  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Encinitas  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Huntington Beach  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Laguna Beach  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Laguna Niguel  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Newport Beach  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Oceanside  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of San Clemente  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of San Juan Capistrano  
Mayor & Councilmembers, City of Seal Beach  
Hon. Todd Spitzer, Orange County District Attorney  
Hon. Don Barnes, Orange County Sheriff  
Dr. Clayton Chau, Director, Orange County Healthcare Agency  
Board of Supervisors, County of Orange  
Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego