



August 8, 2025

Armando Quintero, Director
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Dena Bellman, District Superintendent
Channel Coast District Office
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via email

**Re: Environmental Review of Proposed Easement for Sable Offshore
Corporations' Pipeline (CA-325) through Gaviota State Park**

Dear Director Quintero and Superintendent Bellman,

We write today to urge the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) to conduct a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before granting any easement to Sable Offshore Corporation (Sable) for the operation of Pipeline CA-325 through Gaviota State Park.

Sable's proposal to restart this segment of the Las Flores Pipeline System (pipeline system)—shuttered since the catastrophic 2015 Refugio oil spill—raises serious environmental and public safety concerns. The pipeline system lacks effective cathodic protection and has a known design flaw contributing to pervasive corrosion. Rather than correcting these underlying problems, Sable sought and obtained a waiver from the State Fire Marshal that allows restarting and ongoing operation of the pipeline system with more frequent inspections requiring at least 192 excavations over ten years, including at least 96 on CA-325, and within Gaviota State Park.

This approach does not guarantee that a failure of this pipeline will not occur resulting in another significant oil spill. These inspections cannot reliably detect corrosion in time to prevent a rupture, as confirmed by the 2015 spill investigation. This inspection regime is a poor substitute for cathodic protection. The required excavation, inspection, and maintenance would significantly disturb rare habitats within Gaviota State Park, including identified Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas pursuant to the Coastal Act, and threaten species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal and California Endangered Species Acts such as the California red-legged frog and southern California steelhead.

Granting the proposed easement through Gaviota State Park would represent a major discretionary action with foreseeable significant impacts—requiring full CEQA review. Furthermore, because of changes in project conditions, new species protections, and new information since the original 1985 EIR/Environmental Impact Statement, a subsequent or supplemental EIR is required at a minimum, if not a new comprehensive EIR.

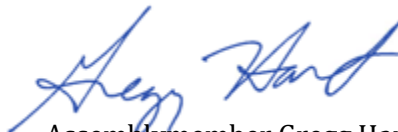
Gaviota State Park is one of California's ecological and cultural treasures. Authorizing this degraded pipeline system to resume operations well beyond its anticipated 30 year life without a robust and legally-required environmental review would put that legacy at grave risk.

We respectfully urge State Parks to uphold CEQA's requirements and conduct a new EIR or supplemental EIR prior to considering any requested easement through Gaviota State Park.

Sincerely,



Senator Henry Stern
27th Senate District



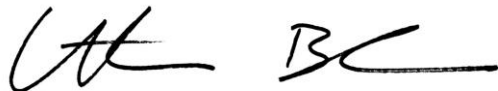
Assemblymember Gregg Hart
37th Assembly District



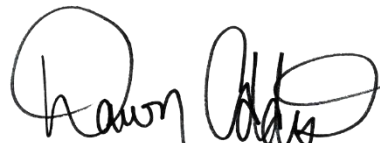
Senator Monique Limón
19th Senate District



Assemblymember Steve Bennett
38th Assembly District



Senator Catherine Blakespear
38th Senate District



Assemblymember Dawn Addis
30th Assembly District

cc: Marival Barajas, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, State Parks
Megan Mekelburg, Deputy Secretary for Legislation, California Natural Resources
Agency