



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

July 18, 2016

Michael J. Richwine, Acting State Fire Marshal
CALFIRE
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr., Administrator
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
1700 K Street #250
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Grove Incident Oil Spill in Ventura County

Dear Chief Richwine and Mr. Cullen:

As you are aware, on June 26, 2016 oil spilled from a pipeline owned by Crimson Pipeline in Ventura County within my district. This oil spill is very concerning to the communities we represent, especially in the wake of the devastating Refugio Oil Spill in 2015.

While we realize that cleanup efforts are ongoing, the people affected by this incident deserve answers to their questions about how this spill happened, what—if anything—could have been done to prevent it, how cleanup efforts are progressing, and how the communities affected will be compensated for this environmental disaster. Specifically, we would like you to answer the following questions:

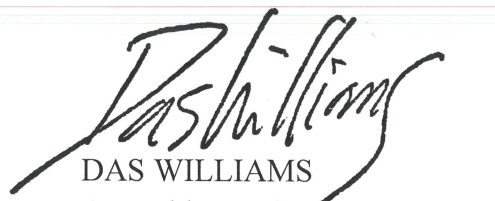
1. What is the status of the investigation into this oil spill?
2. When was this pipeline last inspected and what were the results?

3. How many barrels of oil were spilled and how many have been cleaned up?
4. When was the pipeline restarted? What procedures were Crimson required to perform prior to restarting the pipeline?
5. Did the State Fire Marshal, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), or Crimson Pipeline have any responsibility to notify the public prior to the pipeline resuming operation?
6. Has a timeline with specific, measurable goals for cleaning up Prince Barranca and other affected areas been determined?
7. Will this pipeline be regulated under Senate Bill 295 (Chapter 607, Statutes of 2015), a measure that directs the State Fire Marshal to develop regulations requiring the annual inspection of pipelines under their jurisdiction? Were new inspection schedules in place yet? If not, when do you expect these new regulations to be in place? How would the proposed regulations have prevented this spill from occurring?
8. We understand that a Unified Command (UC) consisting of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, OSPR, and Crimson Pipeline has been established. Beyond any actions required by the UC, are there any additional rules or regulations that govern Crimson Pipeline's responsibility to determine the cause of the spill?
9. What is UC's definition of a 100 percent cleanup? What mitigation and restoration plans does UC have for the affected areas?
10. What is the current impact of this oil spill on wildlife?
11. How will the communities affected by this spill be compensated? Will there be an administrative process to compensate individuals or will people need to file lawsuits?

Thank you for your attention to this issue; we look forward to hearing from you at the Joint Information Hearing of the Senate Select Committee on The Refugio Oil Spill and Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, August 4, 2016, and would appreciate receiving your responses in writing as well.

Sincerely,


HANNAH BETH JACKSON
Senator, 19th District


DAS WILLIAMS
Assemblymember, 37th District