Statewide Expansion Fact Sheet

In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown and the state Legislature expanded the OSPR program to cover all state surface waters at risk of oil spills from any source, including vessels, pipelines, production facilities and the increasing shipments of oil transported by railroads. This expansion provided critical administrative funding for preparedness, spill response, and continued coordination with local, state and federal government along with industry and non-governmental organizations.

Senate Bill 861 authorized the extension of the successful marine oil spill preparedness and response program to apply to facilities handling or transporting oil where a spill could impact inland surface waters; thus making the program statewide.

New program objectives:

• Establish additional trained spill response staff and offices in key inland locations, which together with existing marine resources, will provide statewide coverage for effective response to oil spills in state waters.

• Create inland geographic response plans modeled after marine Area Contingency Plans with local, state and federal partners to provide strategic planning for the protection of major threatened waterways.

• Develop effective regulations in close collaboration with local government, state, federal, non-governmental organizations, and industry that will guide industry through implementing new requirements like certificates of financial responsibility, contingency plans, and drills and exercises.

• Build relationships with local governments through workshops and presentations, explaining the program and our intent to work with communities to build a strong response spill team.

Specific Program Changes:

• The Oil Spill Prevention Administration Fund fee of 8.5 cents per barrel (42 gallons - approximately a penny per five gallons) applies to each barrel of crude oil received at California refineries and marine terminals from all sources including imports by rail or vessel, pipelines, in-state production including renewable fuels.

• Extend authority to respond to oil spills statewide and to fund responses to oil spills throughout the state from the state’s oil spill response fund.

• Adds permanent positions to support the proposed expansion of OSPR’s activities to include inland preparedness activities, as well as allow the office to respond to marine and inland oil spills.
• $500,000 annual increase to support expansion of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) to adequately protect inland wildlife affected by oil. With this augmentation, ongoing funding for OWCN is $2.5 million annually.

• Industry response plans will identify Reasonable Worst Case Spill scenarios, sensitive natural resources at risk, equipment needs, strategies for water protection and response, economic resources at risk, drills and exercises, and other aspects of spill preparedness. Planning efforts will be accomplished in coordination and cooperation with the local government, the public and industry.