



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
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*EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



August 12, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The oil boom in North Dakota and Canada triggered a significant shift in oil deliveries in California. The California Energy Commission reported that oil by rail transport increased from 1.2 million barrels in 2012 to 6.3 million barrels in 2013. Many types of crude oil travel by rail, but the increased production in Canada (tar sands) and North Dakota (Bakken crude oil) means California could see an increase of as much as 143 million barrels (or 6 billion gallons) coming through the state each year.

Several of California's oil refineries are well along in their planning for the new crude and have identified seven facilities in California that could eventually receive oil by rail: one in northern Santa Barbara County, one in Los Angeles County, two in the San Francisco Bay Area, and three near Bakersfield. This oil may arrive via "manifest" cargo trains (small sets individual tank cars attached to other cargo cars) or single-product "unit" trains, which could include more than 100 tank cars. These trains traverse much of California before reaching their destination, and each car in the train has a capacity of 30,000 gallons, which presents a serious threat to California's citizens, natural resources, and waterways. California has more than 7,000 locations where rail lines cross state waters and more than 5,000 pipeline water crossings.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) recognized that this shift in the transportation of oil from marine tankers to rail increases the risk for California's residents and natural resources. California has a robust marine oil spill response program, but no state program existed for the inland areas where oil already moved by pipeline and now increasingly by rail.

Responding to the new threat, Governor Brown took action to ensure that the cleanup of a petroleum spill, of any type, will be handled swiftly and expertly throughout the state. The OSPR program now covers all state surface waters at risk from oil spills from any source, including vessels, pipelines, rail, refineries, and production and distribution facilities. This expansion provides critical administrative funding for industry preparedness, spill response, and continued coordination with local, state and federal government along with industry and non-governmental organizations. More information on the program is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/About/>

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

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As OSPR expands into these new areas of the state, we would like to meet with local government representatives to discuss the program, the roll out plans, and opportunities for collaboration. As an organization, we long ago recognized that spill response requires coordination, and local government is one of our most important partners in planning and response.

In addition, starting in mid-winter, OSPR will present an "Oil Spill Overview" to local government agencies to explain what OSPR is and how we respond, and to identify points of integration with the local response teams should an oil spill occur.

If you would like to schedule a presentation or meeting with OSPR, please contact Alexia Retallack at (916) 322-1683 or [alexia.retallack@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:alexia.retallack@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas M. Cullen, Jr." The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr.  
Administrator  
Office of Spill Prevention and Response