



April 14, 2023

The Honorable Senator Dave Min
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
California State Senate

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto
Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
California State Senate

Re: SB 704 (Min): Coastal resources: California Coastal Act of 1976: industrial developments: oil and gas facilities: offshore wind – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Min and Vice Chair Seyarto:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we express our support for Senate Bill 704 (Min).

This bill will stop an outdated exemption under the California Coastal Act for new oil and gas operations, refineries, and petrochemical facilities. Under SB 704 (Min), the Coastal Commission will instead have to review new oil and gas wells, refineries and petrochemical facilities using the same Coastal Act development policies as other projects proposed in the coastal zone. In addition, this bill ensures that the Coastal Commission has the advice it needs as offshore wind development continues off the state's coast.

The California Coast Act regulates development in California's coastal zone and recognizes the state's coast as a "distinct and valuable natural resource of vital and enduring interest." The Coastal Act contains provisions to protect environmentally sensitive areas from development, to address equity concerns raised by coastal development, and to reduce the environmental impacts of coastal developments. When the Coastal Act was enacted, however, it authorized the Coastal Commission to approve the continuing development of certain industrial uses in the coastal zone such as oil and gas development, refineries and petrochemical facilities that are clearly inconsistent with Coastal Act policies, as well as the state's climate goals. This bill will authorize the continuing repair and maintenance of existing facilities, and require new projects to

meet the same standards other development projects do. This is an overdue and common sense reform.

Additionally, the bill encourages ports to prepare for offshore wind development offshore, and explicitly authorizes the Coastal Commission to seek scientific advice related to offshore wind. The Coastal Commission is uniquely situated as a state agency with some jurisdiction over federal activities, and it is important that it have the resources it needs to address widespread offshore wind development as the state decarbonizes.

For these reasons, our organizations strongly support SB 704 (Min) and urge your support for the bill.

Sincerely,

Mike Lynes
Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

Laura Walsh
California Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Pamela Heatherington
Director
Environmental Center of San Diego

Garry Brown
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Orange County Coastkeeper

Ellie Cohen
CEO
The Climate Center

Lucas Zucker
Co-Executive Director
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)