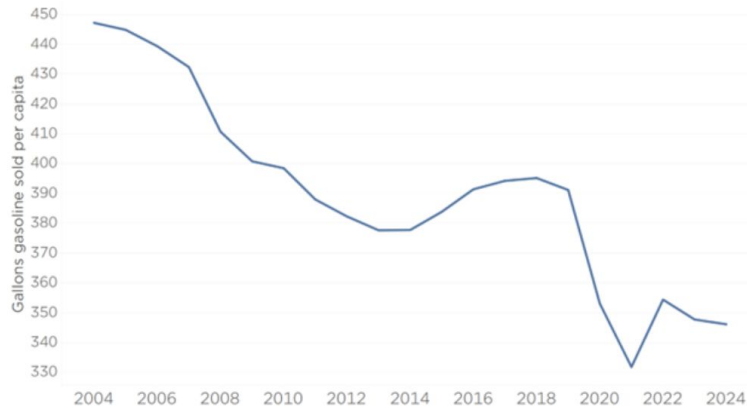


Legislative Recap 2026: *The Refinery Transparency Act*

Faraz Rizvi, Senior Policy & Campaign Manager
The Climate Center Webinar 10/21

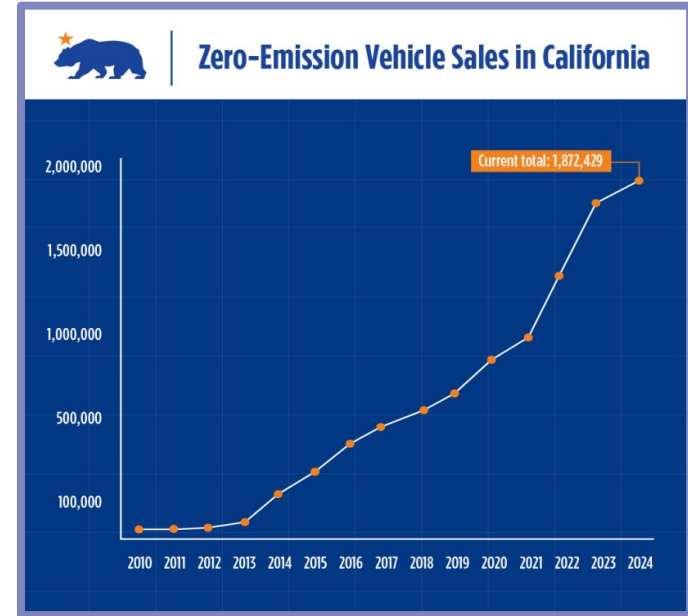


In California—and the rest of the world—demand for refined oil products are falling...



Annual gasoline consumption per person

In California, the demand for fossil fuel products has been steadily dropping since 2005.
UCS, 'Has Gasoline Use in California Peaked?' Sept. 11, 2024



...as electrification policies are working! Cars have become more fuel efficient and Zero Emission Vehicles are more available.

⚡ Refineries are Closing: What Comes Next? And Who Pays for Cleanup?

Last year, Phillips 66 closed its Wilmington-Carson refinery: 424 acres in Wilmington and 235 acres in Carson.

Valero announced intent to close its 900-acre Benicia Refinery by the end of 2026.

These refinery closures left communities scrambling to understand the extent of the toxic contamination, and what's possible for the future of those refinery lands.

BUSINESS

‘It’s a tremendous opportunity.’ Developers see gold in Phillips 66 oil refinery in South Bay



The Phillips 66 refinery in South Bay.

By Roger V.
Staff Writer
Published N

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Valero announces possible closure of its Benicia refinery

By Julie Johnson, Reporter
Updated April 17, 2025 1:09 p.m.



Valero says it intends to close, idle or restructure its Benicia refinery, the sixth largest in California, by next April.
Carlos Avila Gonzalez/S.F. Chronicle



FIND YOUR HOME



Refinery Closure Notices- no time for planning



BUSINESS

‘It’s a tremendous opportunity.’ Developers see gold in Phillips 66 oil refinery in South Bay



The Phillips 66 refinery in Wilmington in 2022. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

By Roger Vincent
Staff Writer

Published Nov. 11, 2024 | Updated Nov. 12, 2024 5:48 PM PT

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Chevron Richmond is even bigger than the Carson, Wilmington, and Benecia sites combined: 2,900 acres of land.

Communities that have faced generations of harm from the refinery should have a say in shaping what comes next.

SB 1259: Refinery Transparency Act

**Which elected
officials helped
write it? :**

Bill Author



Catherine Blakespear D



Lena Gonzalez D

Bill Co-Author(s):



Benjamin Allen D



Henry Stern D

SB 1259

When a refinery closes, this lack of planning leaves the overwhelming burden of figuring it out and paying for it to local communities. The communities will suffer job-loss panic, loss of tax revenue, and acres of dead polluted land.

We are proposing a small helpful fix: to require oil refineries to disclose the extent of the contamination, and make and disclose estimates of cost and timeline for cleanup, if the refinery ever closes.

**Who is against our
bill?**

Western
States
Petroleum
Association
(WSPA) and
big oil are
strongly
opposing this
bill.

What Are We Proposing?

Decommissioning Disclosure

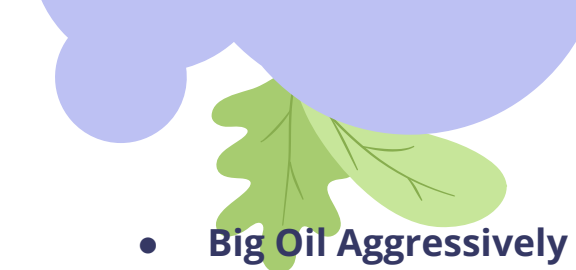
- This bill would require refiners to file a report detailing decommissioning plans and site remediation for every refinery it owns, operates, or controls to the State Water Board.
- The estimated cost and duration of that decommissioning.

Remediation Disclosure

- Requires refiners to include a description of anticipated site remediation needs and measures for multiple potential future uses, including remediation of soil and groundwater.
- The estimated cost and duration of remediation.

Why This Matters: We need to know the extent of the contamination we're dealing with, and this information needs to be publicly accessible.

Bonus: Getting total costs to lay the groundwork for making refiners pay for cleanup.



Why Did the Bill Fail?

- **Big Oil Aggressively Lobbied the Bill:**
 - WSPA and other aligned groups made defeating 1259 one of their priorities. By threatening closure of more refineries, Big Oil was successfully able to shape the context and conversation of the bill away from transparency and towards supply reliability.
 - Argued that the bill is onerous and goes against generally accepted accounting principles, which is categorically untrue but compelling given the complexity of the issue.
- **External Conditions:**
 - The exorbitant rise in gas prices following the Hormuz Crisis made the legislature less open to regulating refiners, despite their record profits.

This means communities will lack the basic information we need to plan for cleanup and repurposing of refinery land until the closure announcement.

