

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1661 (Bryan)

As Amended August 13, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Expands the uses of the Equitable Community Repair and Reinvestment Account (Account) and requires direct cash assistance to be made available to certain families living within 2-1/2 miles of the identified low production oil or gas wells located in the Inglewood Oil Field (IOF) in Los Angeles (LA) County, as provided.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Limit the disbursement of direct cash assistance to 1,000 households.
- 2) Clarify the direct cash assistance is distributed in one lump sum.
- 3) Require LA County to select recipient households by randomized lottery if the number of applications from verified eligible households exceeds 1,000.
- 4) Exclude direct cash assistance from income or resource considerations for purposes of determining any member of the household's eligibility for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any state or local benefit or assistance program, as provided.
- 5) Explicitly require LA County to design and administer the application process to ensure equitable access for all eligible households, including households whose preferred language is not English and households that include members with disabilities or other limitations, including limited access to technology.
- 6) Provide that nothing in the bill shall be construed to require the Department of Conservation (DOC) to establish a program in coordination with, or monitor a program established by, LA County.

COMMENTS

AB 2716 (Bryan), Chapter 549, Statutes of 2024, prohibits the operation of low-production oil and gas wells located in the IOF and imposes a \$10,000 per month penalty upon these wells if they remain in low-production for more than 12 months until they are plugged and abandoned. All penalty revenue is deposited into the Account to fund projects, such as park creation and

The IOF is surrounded by residential areas, schools, and homes and, according to the LA Times, more than one million people live within 5 miles of the IOF. Residents living near oil fields have long reported adverse health effects such as respiratory, reproductive and cardiovascular issues. In the LA area, many of these risks disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color.

This bill requires DOC, upon appropriation by the Legislature and subject to the terms of the appropriation, to distribute the first \$5 million deposited into the Account to LA County for

direct cash assistance to families living within 2½ miles of the identified low-production wells whose children have respiratory health conditions and can verify their residence to LA County.

According to the Author

Communities living next to active oil fields continue to experience disproportionately high rates of respiratory illness. Families in these neighborhoods are routinely exposed to harmful air pollutants, as well as chronic noise and vibration associated with oil drilling operations. This targeted support recognizes the immense harm these communities have endured and provides environmental reparations for families who continue to experience the health impacts of neighborhood oil drilling.

Arguments in Support

A group of public health and environmental justice groups write that the communities surrounding the IOF are predominantly Black and Latine. Black people are 75% more likely to live in communities near toxic facilities like chemical plants and oil refineries. This applies to the mostly Black communities close to the IOF. The health and safety of residents living near the field are top concerns for our organizations and the communities we represent. AB 1661 is an opportunity to hold polluters accountable for the decades of harm they have caused to frontline communities. This can serve as a meaningful example of environmental reparations and position California as a leader in addressing past harm from the oil and gas industry. For these reasons, we respectfully request your support for AB 1661.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) By requiring a set-aside for direct cash assistance from the Account, this bill would create a one-time cost pressure of \$5 million on the Account, the General Fund, or some other potential funding source to the extent there is insufficient funding for all eligible families.
- 2) To the extent the Commission on State Mandates determines that the provisions of this bill create a new program or impose a higher level of service on local agencies, local agencies could claim reimbursement of those costs, which could have a General Fund impact.

VOTES:

ASM NATURAL RESOURCES: 10-1-3

YES: Bryan, Connolly, Garcia, Haney, Kalra, Boerner, Pellerin, Schultz, Wicks, Zbur

NO: Macedo

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ellis, Alanis, Hoover

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-2-2

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-14-8

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Johnson, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Castillo, Hoover, Lackey, Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez, Ta, Wallis

UPDATED

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