
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1259 (Blakespear) - Refineries: decommissioning and remediation: cost estimates

Version: April 23, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: E.Q. 4 - 1

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would require refiners to report information concerning refinery decommissioning and site remediation to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and California Energy Commission (CEC) in accordance with specified guidelines.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026**

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown but likely significant ongoing costs, possibly in the hundreds of thousands of dollars or up to \$1 - \$2 million annually (General Fund), for the State Water Board to develop an overview of past methods, costs, and timelines in cases of refinery closures, track and review draft reports and annual updates from refiners, conduct and compile public comments, assess trade secret claims, and conduct any possible enforcement actions. In addition, the State Water Board would likely have one-time contracting costs relating to creation of the mandated report.

Committee Amendments: Committee amendments would require the Water Board to develop an overview of past methods, costs, and timelines for cases of refinery closures in lieu of developing new guidelines. These amendments would also streamline the State Water Board's review of reports prepared and submitted by refiners in order to reduce the scope of and simplify that process, which would reduce state costs.

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