

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 7, 2022

Amanda Lefton, Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Martha Williams, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Richard Spinrad, NOAA Administrator
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Amplify Pipeline Repair and Restart Project

As elected officials who represent communities that have been directly or indirectly harmed by previous oil catastrophes in California, we are alarmed that the Army Corps is poised to allow Amplify Energy Corporation to repair and restart its pipeline in San Pedro Bay, California without a full, site-specific review under federal law, including the Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act. We urge you to conduct a full environmental review and public comment period before restarting the Amplify Energy Pipeline.

In October 2021, a 42-year old, 17-mile-long pipeline operated by Amplify Energy Corporation ruptured in federal waters approximately five miles off Huntington Beach, California. The pipeline leaked approximately 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean and California's coastal environment. The resulting oil slick spread over an area greater than 25 square miles of ocean, forcing fisheries to close and harming sensitive wildlife and habitat.

This disaster was yet another reminder of the harms of offshore oil drilling and the unnecessary risks it poses. All Californians benefit greatly from our nearly \$44 billion coastal economy, which employs hundreds of thousands of workers and brings an estimated 150 million visitors to the region annually. Disasters like this pose severe environmental and economic threats to our

region, and we are concerned by recent decisions to approve repair projects without adequate environmental review and opportunity for public input.

In this instance, the Army Corps is expected to issue Amplify Energy coverage for its proposed San Pedro Bay Pipeline Repair Project under Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit 12, a permit that allows for expedited approval for oil or gas pipeline activities. This permit process will allow Amplify Energy to start the project without the federal government conducting the customary site-specific review required for projects requiring Army Corps and wildlife agency approvals under federal law. Further, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) denied the State of California's request for consistency review under the Coastal Zone Management Act, again shutting down the opportunity for public review and input.

This expedited approval process is unwarranted and dangerous. This is no ordinary repair—it is a repair of a decades-old, subsea pipeline following a significant rupture and leakage. Given the threat this aging infrastructure poses to our ecologically sensitive marine resources, coastal economy, and communities, this project requires site-specific analysis before the federal government grants its approval.

We appreciate your attention to these issues and look forward to a response to our request by June 17, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on
Energy and Mineral
Resources



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress