

**Subject: Item #56 - Long Beach Unit**

Dear Members of the California State Lands Commission,

As a Long Beach taxpayer committed to the responsible stewardship of public trust resources, I urge the Commission to take immediate and meaningful action to protect our coast. Specifically, I request that the Commission:

1. Direct a Public Trust Needs Assessment for Long Beach's tidelands, and
2. Sponsor legislation that reinvests Long Beach oil revenue back into the local coastline to mitigate the harms of offshore drilling and support a just transition to a post-oil future in Long Beach.

Since 2004, the State has taken nearly \$6 billion in oil production revenue from Long Beach's tidelands under Chapter 138 of the Statutes of 1964, which deemed it "economically impractical, unwise, and unnecessary" to dedicate all locally produced oil revenue to Long Beach. Today, this framework is outdated and fails to meet the obligations of public trust stewardship.

Under the 1991 Optimized Water Program Agreement, the City receives just 8.5% of the revenue generated in Long Beach. This allocation is no longer sufficient to protect and restore a coastline degraded by a century of industrialization that directly benefited the State. Long Beach now faces a \$300 million revenue shortfall for coastal care, while over \$1 billion in coastal infrastructure needs remain unfunded.

The recently submitted Long Beach Unit Annual Plan, set to be approved by the Commission, shows that the Unit generated more than \$83 million above projected revenues. Despite this, we continue to hear that there is no funding to apply the Commission's own Strategic Plan to Long Beach's tidelands. This plan emphasizes equity, climate resilience, and not placing the burden of public trust protection on local communities.

Long Beach, as the local trustee, had a plan in place to end our reliance on oil revenue, but recent State actions have accelerated the phase out faster than we can responsibly adjust. These decisions include:

- **CalGEM's Water Injection Schedule**, which affects subsidence control and has implications for public trust land stability and safety.
- **Senate Bill 1137**, which removed production wells in health hazard zones and constrained well maintenance, reducing future revenue for abandonment liabilities and environmental mitigation.

All recent discussions with the State about Long Beach's tidelands oil production have acknowledged the critical need to protect our coastline and how complicated the situation is.

When it's time for action to make changes to protect the future of our coast through a just oil transition, no one wants to lead.

We believe the State Lands Commission should be that leader. The Commission is not merely overseeing an oil operation. It is tasked with protecting our tidelands and right now, Long Beach tidelands and the communities impacted by these oil operations need your help.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,