Action Toolkit: Tell Governor Newsom to Support AB 1661 & Deliver Environmental Reparations for the Inglewood Oil Field's Frontline Communities

Overview	Write to Governor Newsom!	Call Governor Newsom	Spread the word on Social Media: AB1661.png

Overview

Assembly Bill 1661 expands on existing law (AB 2716) and would require that the first $5 million collected from penalties on low-producing oil wells at the Inglewood Oil Field be used for direct cash assistance for 1,000 households within 2.5 miles of the Inglewood Oil Field who have at least one member with respiratory or reproductive health impacts. These funds will be distributed by Los Angeles County, once appropriated, through a simple, noninvasive, and standardized process. AB 2716, passed in 2024, prohibits low-producing wells in the Baldwin Hills Conservancy area, requires CalGEM to identify them, imposes a $10,000 monthly penalty for noncompliance, and directs those funds toward community benefits.

The Inglewood Oil Field is the largest urban oil field in the United States, covering approximately 1,100 acres, and over one million people live within five miles of the massive oil field. The communities surrounding the Oil Field 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 Inglewood Oil Field. Years of door-to-door outreach and phone banking to over 30,000 households and hearing responses from over 5,000 community members has demonstrated that many residents experience health impacts, particularly asthma, and they are concerned about soil, air, and water contamination. Peer reviewed studies of residents living near the oil field found that living nearby is associated with reduced lung function, a higher prevalence of wheezing, eye, and nose irritation, as well as higher likelihood of preterm birth.**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.

Write to Governor Newsom

Tell Governor Newsom to sign AB 1661 and demand justice for the Inglewood Oil Field's frontline communities!

Instructions to submit written comment:

1. Go to https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/
2. Click on topic and then select "active bill"
3. Under "Select a bill", scroll down and select "AB 1661"
4. Under "What is the purpose of your message?" select "Leave a Comment"
5. Under "If applicable, what is your stance on this topic?" click "Pro"
6. Under message, copy and paste the template message below
7. Please modify the template message however you would like
8. When you are satisfied with your message, click "next"
9. Record your first name, last name, and email address
10. When you are finished, click "submit"

Sample written comment:

Hello my name is ___ and I am writing to urge Governor Newsom to sign AB 1661 and demand justice for frontline communities living near the Inglewood Oil Field. An overwhelming body of scientific evidence confirms that oil drilling harms people's health. The chemicals emitted from oil extraction are linked to nosebleeds, asthma, preterm birth defects, cancer, and many other health harms.

AB 1661 builds on existing legislation by allocating the first $5 million in penalties from noncompliant wells at the Inglewood Oil Field to direct cash assistance for nearby residents suffering respiratory or reproductive harm. This will primarily benefit Black and Latine communities within a 2.5-mile radius that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution. Residents continue to experience serious health issues—such as reduced lung function, asthma, preterm births, and chronic disease—documented through community outreach by groups like SCOPE and Black Women for Wellness.

Therefore, AB 1661 represents an important step toward environmental justice by holding polluters accountable, addressing documented harms, and reinvesting resources directly into affected frontline communities.

Call Governor Newsom

(916) 445-2841
Sample script: Hello my name is ___ and I am calling to urge Governor Newsom to sign AB 1661 and demand justice for frontline communities living near the Inglewood Oil Field. AB 1661 allocates the first $5 million in penalties from noncompliant wells at the Inglewood Oil Field to direct cash assistance for nearby residents suffering respiratory or reproductive harm. This will primarily benefit Black and Latine communities within a 2.5-mile radius that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution. AB 1661 is an important step forward towards environmental justice and I urge the Governor to sign this bill into law.