



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2, 2025

CONTACT: Michael Guerra, 916-319-2030

SACRAMENTO — The California Legislative Central Coast Caucus, co-chaired by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) and Assemblymember Gregg Hart (D-Santa Barbara) and vice chaired by Senator Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara), unveiled its bill priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

"The California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC) is back with our second set of bill priorities. From protecting our coasts from offshore drilling to protecting our homes from wildfires, this year's package aims to not just defend the residents of the Central Coast, but also people all over the state of California", said Addis. "This year's package takes a holistic view of the natural disaster landscape through bills that address the root cause of these disasters, climate change, while also making our environments and homes more resilient to storms, wildfires, and other natural disasters."

"The California Central Coast Legislative Caucus is committed to improving the lives of the people we serve every day," said Hart. "This year's priority bills reflect the challenges and opportunities unique to our region — from protecting our coastline and preparing our communities for wildfires, to addressing the climate crisis and expanding access to outdoor recreation. Together, we are advancing thoughtful, lasting solutions that strengthen the Central Coast and meet the needs of the communities we represent."

"As Vice Chair of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus, I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting policies that protect our communities from wildfire, safeguard our natural resources, and mitigate the impacts of a changing climate," said Limón. "The Central Coast is a diverse landscape that is home to some of the state's largest agricultural producers, numerous state and national parks, and great biological diversity that must be protected for decades to come."

The legislative package is comprised of eight bill priorities, each poised to address critical issues facing the region:

AB 1243 (Addis) requires fossil fuel polluters to pay their fair share of the damage caused by fossil fuel emissions in order to relieve a portion of the burden borne by current and future California taxpayers.

AB 367 (Bennett) requires water purveyors in Ventura County that supply water for fire suppression in either a high risk or very high risk severity zones to have enough backup power to operate wells and pumps at normal capacity during a power shutoff, ensure that wells and pumps are adequately protected from fire damage, and provides for local accountability after fires.

AB 1143 (Bennett) requires the State Fire Marshal to create a holistic home hardening certification program that incorporates home hardening techniques, materials, and defensible space in order to reduce wildfire losses.

AB 14 (Hart) creates the California Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program, a voluntary vessel speed reduction program to incentivize ocean-going vessels to reduce their speed.

AB 1448 (Hart) prohibits changes to oil leases that would increase the amount of oil transported through state waters, protecting our coast from additional oil infrastructure.

AB 452 (Irwin) allows local governments to identify conservation measures to protect and restore the ecosystems and natural resources surrounding surf breaks.

AB 996 (Pellerin) establishes a process for local governments to seek consultation from the California Coastal Commission on sea level rise planning and establishes the California Coastal Planning Fund to help local governments adequately plan for the protection of coastal resources and public accessibility to the coastline.

SB 613 (Stern) requires state agencies to prioritize reductions of methane from the oil and natural gas sectors by creating additional strategies to measure, report, and incentivize reducing methane emissions from petroleum and imported natural gas.

Further updates on the progress of these bills are anticipated as they move through the legislative process in the State Assembly and State Senate.

The California Legislative Central Caucus is made up of ten elected officials representing Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. The caucus is led by Assemblymembers Dawn Addis and Gregg Hart as co-chairs and Senator Monique Limón as the vice chair. Members of the caucus include Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Assemblymembers Steve Bennett, Jacqui Irwin, Gail Pellerin, and Senators Anna Caballero, John Laird, and Henry Stern.