

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1056 without my signature.

This bill requires that the standards for response to an oil spill in the marine waters of the state not exceed two hours.

This is a meritorious goal, but mandating a two-hour response time in statute does not take into consideration the environmental conditions at the time of an oil spill. These conditions could jeopardize health and safety by forcing the Oil Spill Response Organizations to respond in potentially unsafe circumstances to fulfill this requirement. Flexibility is needed to ensure that spill response is as swift as possible, without endangering our first responders.

The Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) is currently conducting a thorough review of current response requirements and it is my expectation that the OSPR Administrator will adopt regulations to require the most expeditious response times possible, while still protecting the health and safety of our responding personnel.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger