



August 18, 2026

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0032

Submitted via Legislative Portal

**RE: AB 2711 (Ellis) – Oil and Gas: Notice of Intention
SUPPORT**

On behalf of the National Association of Royalty Owners – California (NARO-California), we write in support of AB 2711, which would establish reasonable and predictable timelines for the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to review notices of intention for oil and gas well operations.

NARO-California advocates for and defends the rights and interests of California's estimated 600,000 oil and gas royalty owners, and even more mineral owners. These Californians include farmers, ranchers, retirees living on fixed incomes, small business owners, families, students, and nonprofit organizations.

Our state was once one of America's top oil-producing states. Today, roughly 70 percent of the oil California consumes is imported. The policies that contributed to this decline are political policies, not acts of God, and they can be changed. AB 2711 represents the kind of common-sense reform that can help reverse this decline, encourage investment in California production, and strengthen our state's energy security.

California's mineral and royalty owners have a direct interest in a regulatory process that is both thorough and timely. Appropriate environmental and technical review is an important part of responsible oil and gas development. However, regulatory review should not result in indefinite administrative delays that prevent operators, mineral owners, and royalty owners from knowing whether proposed well operations may proceed.

Under current practice, CalGEM may issue a letter of abeyance acknowledging a notice of intention without making a final determination. According to the Senate Appropriations Committee analysis of AB 2711, there is no fixed deadline for CalGEM to approve or deny an application after issuing such a letter. For new well notices approved in 2025 that received letters of abeyance, the average time to a decision was more than five months, with some applications taking nearly a year and a half.

Founded in 1980, the National Association of Royalty Owners is the only national organization representing solely, and without compromise, oil and gas royalty owners' interests.

AB 2711 would bring greater certainty and accountability to this process. The bill would require CalGEM to determine within 10 working days whether a notice of intention is complete. If information is missing or deficient, CalGEM would be required to identify those items in writing. Once a notice is determined to be complete, CalGEM would generally have 30 working days to approve or deny it.

Importantly, AB 2711 does not eliminate necessary environmental or technical review. Rather, it establishes a predictable process for identifying what information is required and reaching a decision once that information has been provided.

For mineral and royalty owners and for California's economy as a whole, unnecessary regulatory delays have direct economic consequences. Delays in lawful well operations delay production, investment, and the royalty income associated with the responsible development of privately owned mineral resources. A predictable permitting process also provides greater certainty to operators considering whether to invest capital in California oil and gas properties.

AB 2711 also applies these timelines and procedural protections to notices of intention to abandon wells. Royalty owners support responsible stewardship throughout the productive life of a well, including timely and proper abandonment when production ends. Administrative delay serves little purpose whether an operator is seeking to responsibly develop a resource or properly abandon a well.

AB 2711 demonstrates that California can maintain meaningful environmental and technical review while providing regulated parties with timely answers and clear expectations. It is a practical reform that benefits responsible operators, mineral and royalty owners, and California's broader economy.

For these reasons, NARO-California is pleased to support AB 2711.

Respectfully,



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