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Settlement reached but monitoring continues of crude oil release in Ventura County watershed

\$330,218 in fines will be deposited in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund

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LOS ANGELES – Crimson Pipeline has agreed to pay a \$330,218 penalty for the 2016 unauthorized release of 45,150 gallons of crude oil into a nearby Ventura County creek that harmed wildlife and posed a significant threat to human health and pets.

In a settlement approved June 29 by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Crimson Pipeline will deposit the fine in the Waste Discharge Permit Fund within 30 days.

The spill occurred in the foothills of Hall Canyon north of the city of Ventura. The Prince Barranca is a creek adjacent to the site that flows into the Pacific Ocean about 1.5 miles away.

An investigation by the regional water board determined the incident was caused by a breached pipeline vault box owned and operated by Crimson Pipeline. Crude oil flowed into the creek and killed or harmed several animals before it was contained approximately 1,850 feet downstream. Based on a 2016 report from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, 11 animal carcasses were retrieved, seven of which were oiled. In addition, four oiled birds were placed in wildlife recovery facilities and later released.

"I'm very pleased we reached a settlement with Crimson Pipeline regarding the environmental damage," said Lawrence Yee, chair of the Los Angeles Water Board. "When we protect the environment, we protect ourselves. And we will continue to monitor the site to mitigate any further harm."

The Los Angeles Water Board has jurisdiction over the coastal watersheds between Rincon Point (on the coast of western Ventura County) and the eastern Los Angeles County line. The board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses,



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and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.