# **Chevron agrees to pay more than $13 million in fines for California oil spills**

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**Body**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Chevron has agreed to pay more than $13 million in fines for dozens of past ***oil*** spills in California.

The California-based energy giant agreed to pay a $5.6 million fine associated with a 2019 ***oil*** spill in ***Kern*** County. The company has already paid to clean up that spill. This money will instead go toward the state Department of Conservation's work of plugging old and orphaned wells.

The department said it was the largest fine ever assessed in its history.

“This agreement is a significant demonstration of California’s commitment to transition away from fossil fuels while holding ***oil*** companies accountable when they don’t comply with the state’s regulations and environmental protections,” department Director David Shabazian said in a news release.

The 2019 ***oil*** spill dumped at least 800,000 gallons (3 million litres) of ***oil*** and water into a canyon in ***Kern*** County, the home of the state's ***oil*** industry.

Also, Chevron agreed to pay a $7.5 million fine for more than 70 smaller spills between 2018 and 2023. These accounted for more than 446,000 gallons (1.6 million litres) of ***oil*** spilled and more than 1.48 million gallons (5.6 million litres) of water that killed or injured at least 63 animals and impacted at least 6 acres (2.4 hectares) of salt brush and grassland habitat, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife said it was the largest administrative fine in its history. Most of the money will go to projects to acquire and preserve habitat. A portion of the money will also go to the ***Oiled*** Wildlife Care Network at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and to help respond to future ***oil*** spills.

“This settlement is a testament to our firm stance that we will hold businesses strictly liable for ***oil*** spills that enter our waterways and pollute our environment," Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham said.

Chevron did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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