



## SENATE FLOOR ALERT SUPPORT – SB 561 (Blakespear)

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) **SUPPORTS SB 561 (Blakespear)**, which would establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for emergency distress signals, referred to as Marine Flares.

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) was formed in June 2007 with the mission to shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government-funded and ratepayer financing to one that relies on producer responsibility to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design. CPSC wants to ensure Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs run well in California, to serve as a model for other states. CPSC has led 10 publicly funded marine flare pilot programs to remove single-use pyrotechnic marine flares from communities by hosting temporary collection events and promoting reusable alternatives. These events are costly to collect and develop supporting education.

As a result of the growing coalition and number of events, CPSC designed and operates the “[Make the Electronic Marine Flare Switch Campaign](#),” in collaboration with the California State Parks and Coastal Commission's California Boating Clean & Green Program, as well as CalRecycle.



A video with public testimony on the importance of safe marine flare collection CPSC's YouTube page: [youtu.be/Lj633isEWGs](https://youtu.be/Lj633isEWGs).

Currently, CPSC is coordinating with jurisdictions and organizations across California to set up collective marine flare collection events in the Fall of 2025. Earlier this year, CPSC held an educational event in Chula Vista to provide information to boaters on the impacts of single-use flares. CPSC staff handed out 65 reusable flares to boaters who pledged to switch to the reusable alternative. This bill, along with the leadership shown by Senator Blakespear, helps to solve a little known, but big risk problem, that needs a solution for the safety of our communities.

The state and impacted communities need a permanent solution for this explosive and hazardous product. At CPSC's collection events in 2024, approximately 3,575 pounds of expired marine flares were collected. It [costs a local jurisdiction](#) anywhere from **\$14,500 - \$31,500 per event** to host just one marine flare collection event, with the costs only rising each year. For the City of Oceanside's marine flare collection event in 2023, it cost approximately \$45 to dispose of each single-use pyrotechnic marine flare.

To properly dispose of just one single-use pyrotechnic marine flare, it can cost anywhere from **\$10 - \$350 per flare**. Collection is too costly for local governments, in the absence of grants, which end after one or two events, leaving boaters confused and frustrated from lack of convenient

collection opportunities. CPSC supports SB 561 as a disposal solution for pyrotechnic marine flares. We appreciate the updated structure and content from last year's version.

Passing SB 561 is critical for creating an end-of-life solution for a problematic product that currently has no permanent collection program. For the reasons listed above, we are proud to **SUPPORT SB 561 and respectfully request an aye vote.**

**For these reasons we are proud to SUPPORT SB 561 (Blakespear) and urge your "AYE" vote when it's heard on the Senate Floor.**

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MAKE THE ELECTRONIC  
\* MARINE FLARE SWITCH \*

**California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC)** *developed and administers the Make the Electronic Marine Flare Switch campaign. CPSC educates both the public and private sectors about Product Stewardship and Extended Producer Responsibility, while collaborating with business, jurisdictions, waste and recycling companies, manufacturers, and others to promote and encourage sustainable practices. For more information, please go to:* [www.CalPSC.org](http://www.CalPSC.org).