

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 788

Introduced by ~~Senator~~ *Senators McGuire and Jackson*
(Principal ~~coauthors: Senators Jackson and~~ *coauthor: Senator Leno*)
(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Hancock, Monning, and Wolk)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Levine, Mark Stone, and
Williams)

February 27, 2015

An act to repeal Section 6244 of the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 788, as amended, McGuire. California Coastal Protection Act of 2015.

The California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 authorizes the State Lands Commission to enter into a lease for the extraction of oil or gas from state-owned tide and submerged lands in the California Coastal Sanctuary if the commission determines that the oil or gas deposits are being drained by means of producing wells upon adjacent federal lands and the lease is in the best interest of the state.

This bill would enact the California Coastal Protection Act of 2015, which would delete this authorization. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) California's coast is 840 miles long. California's coastal
4 economies contribute \$40 billion annually to the state's economy,
5 and nearly half a million jobs. Commercial fisheries in California
6 are valued at more than \$7 billion annually. Ocean dependent
7 tourism is valued at over \$10 billion annually. Recreational fishing
8 *along California's coast* is valued at over \$2 billion ~~annually along~~
9 ~~California's coast.~~ *annually.*

10 (2) The California coastal current system hosts a wide variety
11 of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, marine fishes, and
12 invertebrates, including many threatened and endangered animals.
13 The ocean off of California's coast also supports rare, deep-water
14 coral habitats that provide habitat for abundant marine life.

15 (3) The California coastline provides habitat for many threatened
16 or endangered species.

17 (4) The coast of California is home to numerous protected areas,
18 including national marine sanctuaries, a national park, and a
19 national seashore.

20 (5) Outdoor coastal recreation is a crucial part of California's
21 business and recreation, including boating, wildlife viewing, hiking,
22 beach visitation, swimming, surfing, and diving. Additionally,
23 many of California's indigenous populations rely on fisheries for
24 subsistence, business, and recreation.

25 (6) The California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 passed with
26 bipartisan support. The act prohibits any extraction of oil or gas
27 in certain state waters under a new lease, but it also provides an
28 exception that authorizes the extraction of oil or gas from
29 state-owned tide and submerged lands in certain circumstances.
30 Because of this exception, the act falls short of providing a
31 complete ban on new leases for offshore oil drilling in state waters.

32 (7) California has established a network of marine protected
33 areas. The exception for new state leases for offshore oil drilling
34 in the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 threatens that
35 network of marine protected areas.

36 (8) Pursuant to an agreement with the federal government,
37 California receives a portion of the royalties on oil and gas
38 produced in federal waters.

1 (9) California has not issued new offshore oil leases for over
2 50 years and has intentionally foregone any revenue from any new
3 leases and the associated offshore oil development in state waters
4 and federal waters. The Legislature, Governor, and State Lands
5 Commission have repeatedly called upon the federal government
6 to prohibit any new offshore oil development leases in federal
7 waters off the California coast.

8 (10) The federal and state government, as well as the people of
9 California, have consistently expressed support for an energy policy
10 that transitions our use from fossil fuel to more renewable energy,
11 greater fuel efficiency, and conservation.

12 (11) The Governor of California, along with the governors of
13 Oregon and Washington, have repeatedly expressed their “strong
14 opposition” to any offshore oil development off of the west coast.
15 In a July 2014 letter to the President of the United States, they
16 wrote: “While new technology reduces the risk of a catastrophic
17 event such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, a sizeable spill
18 anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact
19 on our population, recreation, natural resources, and our ocean and
20 coastal dependent economies.” They further wrote that: “Oil and
21 gas leasing may be appropriate for regions where there is state
22 support for such development and the impacts can be mitigated.
23 However, along the west coast, our states stand ready to work with
24 the Obama Administration to help craft a comprehensive and
25 science-based national energy policy that aligns with the actions
26 we are taking to invest in energy efficiency, alternative renewable
27 energy sources, and pricing carbon.”

28 (b) This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the California
29 Coastal Protection Act of 2015.

30 SEC. 2. Section 6244 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.