



January 29, 2018

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu St. #406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Support for a Santa Barbara County resolution to support a ban on new offshore oil and gas development

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I write to you on behalf of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), a non-profit organization that protects and enhances the environment through education, advocacy, and legal action, in support of a Santa Barbara County resolution to ban offshore oil and gas development. Since 1977 we have represented local, state, and national groups concerned about the impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. We primarily work within Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties – areas that have already absorbed more than our share of offshore oil development and borne the ill effects that result from such development, including the infamous 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill and the recent 2015 Refugio Oil Spill.

Santa Barbara County's coastline boasts a strong coastal economy including recreation, commercial fishing, and tourism, and is home to the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary. The Santa Barbara Channel is one of the rarest bio-regions in the world, due to its location in the confluence of two major ocean currents which result in the highest biodiversity in the mainland United States. EDC supports your efforts to protect these coastal resources.

Many cities and counties throughout California have voiced their opposition to offshore oil and gas development and have passed resolutions to support: 1) a ban on new offshore drilling, fracking, and related techniques; 2) a ban on new onshore development that would support offshore oil and gas development; 3) a phase-out of oil and gas extraction; and 4) a framework to develop new responsible renewable energy projects. EDC applauds these efforts and supports the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in supporting a similar resolution.

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Thank you for your efforts to protect the precious marine and coastal resources of Santa Barbara County and the surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lkrop".

Linda Krop,
Chief Counsel