

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL LEASES IN FEDERAL
WATERS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST IN RESPONSE TO THE BUREAU
OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2025–2030
NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING
PROGRAM**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-140

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has initiated the development of the 2025–2030 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program, as published in the Federal Register on April 30, 2025 (Federal Register Volume 90, Number 84, Document Number 2025-07479); and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has requested public input on the development of the 2025–2030 National Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program, with a formal comment deadline of June 16, 2025, providing the County of Santa Barbara with an opportunity to reaffirm its longstanding opposition to new offshore oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS, the coastal waters of Santa Barbara County are a national treasure that attract millions of visitors per year for beach going, surfing, fishing, diving, and boating; and

WHEREAS, coastal recreation, fishing, boating, and tourism are essential components of the local economy as well as treasured staples of life in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara Harbor is a port for commercial fishing, recreational boating, diving, whale-watching, and cruise ship tourism; and

WHEREAS, the coastal waters off Santa Barbara County include the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary, numerous marine protected areas, and habitats supporting endangered species such as the blue whale, and provide unmatched ecological value and cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County's coastline is a critical driver of the local economy through tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and clean energy development, all of which are negatively impacted by expanded offshore oil and gas extraction; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara has a longstanding commitment to protecting its coastline, economy, and communities from the risks associated with offshore oil development; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County has directly experienced the devastating impacts of offshore oil operations, including the 1969 blowout that helped spark the modern environmental movement, and the 2015 Refugio pipeline rupture, which caused extensive harm to marine life, beaches, fisheries, and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County finds the limited opportunity for local California Central Coast community input on the Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program inadequate; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Board of Supervisors formally adopted a resolution opposing offshore oil leasing under BOEM's 2019–2024 program, and the present circumstances again warrant strong local opposition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara hereby:

1. Opposes any new offshore oil or gas leasing in federal waters off the California coast as part of the 2025–2030 National OCS Leasing Program;
2. Urges BOEM and the U.S. Department of the Interior to exclude all areas offshore California from future new lease sales, consistent with the environmental, economic, and public health interests of coastal communities;
3. Requests that BOEM provide robust public participation opportunities in Santa Barbara County during all stages of the leasing program's development, including scoping and draft program review; and
4. Asserts that the California coast deserves permanent protection from offshore drilling.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 10th day of June, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Lee, Capps, and Hartmann

NOES: Supervisors Nelson and Lavagnino

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Laura Capps
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

Mona Miyasato

Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Rachel Van Mullem

County Counsel

By: 
Deputy County Counsel