



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**#5**

JUN 25 PM 4: 57

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Department Name:** First District  
**Department No.:** 011  
**For Agenda Of:** July 1, 2008  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Tme:** 15 minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Board Member Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor x2186  
Contact Info: Jeremy Tittle, Executive Staff Assistant x2182

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**SUBJECT:**

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form:

**Recommended Actions:**

Consider sending letters to the President, Congressional Leadership, and our Federal Legislative Delegation restating the County's past concerns about the impacts of new offshore oil and gas leasing in federal waters off our coast, and expressing opposition to recent efforts to lift the Presidential and Congressional moratoriums on new oil and gas leasing.

**Summary Text:**

In the past week President Bush and some Congressional leaders have called for the ending of the moratoria on oil and gas leasing in federal waters off of both coasts. If adopted this proposal would impact the coastal areas of Santa Barbara County and could potentially lead to new offshore oil development in our County.

During the time that offshore oil and gas development has occurred off our coast, we have consistently experienced the impacts of these activities. Most notably, the devastating 1969 oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara which illustrated the negative environmental impacts of offshore oil development and inspired the federal ban. Potential new leasing would have an adverse effect on our local economy through negative impacts to our tourism and fishing industries. It has also been documented that it could take up to 15 years for new leasing to produce additional oil and gas and that such action would have little to no impact on the high gas prices that we are currently experiencing.

Since the announcement of the proposal to lift the federal moratoria, Governor Schwarzenegger and numerous local, state, and federal elected officials in our state and across the country have gone on record to express their opposition to such action. I would like to ask my colleagues to consider having Santa Barbara County formally join the Governor and others in formally opposing the lifting the moratoria.

**Background:**

The Congressional moratorium has been in place since 1981 and has been renewed annually as part of the annual appropriations process. The Presidential moratorium was enacted by the former President Bush in 1991 and was extended by former President Clinton in 1997, it is currently set to expire in 2012. The federal moratoria does not impact offshore oil and gas production from existing leases, potential development of existing undeveloped leases, or production or development of leases in State lands. However there is a complementary ban on new state offshore oil and gas leasing.

Over the years the Board of Supervisors has taken positions which have addressed the local impacts off offshore oil and gas development and the Board has advocated for state review of existing undeveloped leases. Additionally the Board has commented on the federal oil and gas leasing program during each five year cycle, most recently in the 1997-2002 and 2002-2007 programs.

**Performance Measure:**

None

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

N/A

**Special Instructions:**

None

**Attachments:**

**Authored by:** Jeremy Tittle

**cc:**