

From: [Noah Boland](#)
To: [sbcob](#)
Cc: [Karina Johnston](#)
Subject: Admin. Item 30: Support of County Opposition to New Offshore Oil Leasing off the Coast of California
Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025 5:37:10 PM
Attachments: [Admin. Item 30 - Support of County Opposition to New Offshore Oil Leasing off Coast of California.docx.pdf](#)

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please distribute the attached comment letter on Admin. Item 30 of the June 10th Meeting to the Board of Supervisors. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Noah Boland

--



Noah Boland | Policy Analyst
Heal the Ocean
1430 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965 - 7570
noah@healtheocean.org
www.healtheocean.org



1430 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101;
PO Box 90106, Santa Barbara, CA 93190; Telephone (805) 965-7570; fax (805) 962-0651
www.healthocean.org

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Ms. Laura Capps, Chair
County Board of Supervisors
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Via email: sbcob@countyofsb.org

**Re: Reaffirmation of County Opposition to New Offshore Oil Leasing in
Response to BOEM's 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program**

Dear Chair Capps and Honorable Supervisors,

Heal the Ocean strongly supports the staff recommendation to adopt a resolution reaffirming the County of Santa Barbara's opposition to new offshore oil leasing off the coast of California in response to the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) request for information regarding preparation of the 2025-2030 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program, as published in the Federal Register on April 30, 2025.

In January of 2018, staff adopted a resolution opposing similar leasing efforts proposed in BOEM's 2019-2024 program, citing the region's historical experiences with major oil spills in 1969 and 2015, the unique and significant biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and the economic importance of tourism, recreation, and fishing. In 2025, these concerns are even more urgent and relevant, especially as the County carefully considers its role as a national leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, progressing the transition to renewable energy, adapting to coastal climate impacts, and protecting our ocean.

We support the statements in the 2025 Resolution, which recognize Santa Barbara's coastal waters as a national treasure that attracts millions of visitors per year, and which recognizes that these coastal waters are essential to our local economy. These coastal waters drive the 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.

The coastal waters of Santa Barbara County are a biodiversity hotspot that includes habitats which support several endangered species, such as the blue whale and white abalone, and provides unmatched ecological and cultural significance. These substantial benefits must not be

threatened with new offshore oil leasing. Santa Barbara County's unique experience with the devastating consequences of offshore oil operations, including the 1969 blowout which helped to spark the modern environmental movement, and the 2015 Refugio pipeline rupture, exposed the severe impacts of offshore oil leasing in California.

Heal the Ocean opposes any new offshore oil and gas leasing in federal waters off the California Coast as part of the 2025-2030 National OCS Leasing Program, and urges BOEM and the U.S. Department of the Interior to exclude all areas offshore California from future new lease sales. We also request 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.

The California coast deserves permanent protection from offshore drilling. These coastal waters provide unique ecological and valuable economic benefits on a national scale, and they must not be threatened. Please move forward with the recommended action and adopt this vitally important resolution.

Thank you for your consideration of these public comments. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Sincerely,



Noah Boland
Policy Analyst, Heal the Ocean
www.healththeocean.org
noah@healththeocean.org



Karina Johnston
Executive Director, Heal the Ocean
www.healththeocean.org
karina@healththeocean.org