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Comment from Aptos Ranch

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Dec 14, 2025

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I am a business owner and lifelong California resident who lives on the northern central coast near Santa Cruz. I have family in southern California who I still visit, making my way down Hwy 101 as it snakes along the land's edge approaching Santa Barbara. Growing up, I took my ocean-borne sunsets for granted, looking out to the flat horizon as the sky and ocean filled with color, taking a deep breath of crisp salty ocean air. Down south in Santa Barbara, home to many wealthy and Hollywood elites, the experience is quite different. The western horizon is broken up by massive industrial marvels - offshore oil rigs, and the air is not as crisp as my hometown coast, and often smells like petroleum (a sickly greasy smell) when the wind blows onshore. Playing on the beach there as a kid I would often find sand crusted blobs of tar that had washed up. Sometimes I stepped on a blob, which meant that my dad would have to use a gasoline soaked rag and a lot of elbow grease to remove the incredibly sticky residue from the bottom of my foot. I cannot speak to the economic and environmental risks to more drilling but I am sure they are high. Tourism, ocean sports (surfing, sailing, etc) and fishing are huge industries in California. Much of our food depends on a healthy coastline. For all these reasons and more, please do not allow any expansion of offshore drilling now or ever. Thank you.

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