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THE CITY OF
HALF MOON BAY
CALIFORNIA

January 15, 2026

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Re: Comments on the Draft Proposed Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (BOEM-2025-0483)

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposed Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (BOEM-2025-0483), which includes a proposal to allow new drilling for oil and gas off the coast of California. The members of the Half Moon Bay City Council have authorized me to express our strong opposition to any new drilling.

The City of Half Moon Bay is located along the Pacific Coast of San Mateo County, which is covered by the Draft Proposed Program for California. The San Mateo County Coastside includes nine state beaches, multiple nature preserves, miles of trails, an expansive network of hotels, restaurants, golf courses, agricultural lands, and major local, state, and federal assets and infrastructure – all of which are critical to residents and visitors to the region and create substantial economic activity and benefits locally, for the greater California economy, and for our country. These resources and sectors have benefitted from the decades-long ban on offshore drilling and would be substantially harmed by the impacts of new offshore and onshore oil producing and processing facilities.

Those impacts are well established. They include harms to the marine and land environments, which in turn harm the economic activity that emanates from our coastal resources. This is before we account for the significant long-term damage that many communities, including in California, have seen following spills in sensitive waters. Finally, but significantly, this unnecessary proposal to increase U.S. reliance on fossil fuels will only increase the necessary costs to mitigate its harms that are born by San Mateo County and every other county that has seen larger wildfires, more intense storms, higher tides, longer droughts, or hotter summers – in short, every county in the U.S.

The consequences of expanding offshore oil drilling will be far-reaching, jeopardizing Half Moon Bay and other California coastal communities, our regional and state economy, and national interests. Therefore, we urge you to remove San Mateo County and all of the California coast from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

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Sincerely,

debbie ruddock

Debbie Ruddock, Mayor
City of Half Moon Bay, California