January 19, 2026

11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
[Docket No. BOEM-2025-0483]
http://www.regulations.gov

RE: Opposition to New Lease Sales in the Draft Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program from San Luis Obispo Climate Coalition and San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

San Luis Obispo Climate Coalition and San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace are local, non-profit organizations located in the Central Coast of California. The Climate Coalition works on high-impact, regional climate solutions; Mothers for Peace works to promote peace, environmental and social justice, and renewable energy. Both organizations adamantly oppose the auction of any offshore oil leases in any United States waters.

CLIMATE IMPACTS
The combustion of fossil fuels continues to impact our climate and cause severe damage to our environment, wildlife, property, health, and prosperity. It is critical that oil remains untapped to prevent further harm. The use of fossil fuels for our energy needs is obsolete and must be abandoned. We must invest in clean and sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

NO NEED
There is no need for new leases. Currently, there are approximately 1,800 inactive offshore leases and 6,000 inactive leases on Federal land. Additionally, the U.S. is currently a net exporter of oil. There is no demonstrated need or credible reason to develop additional oil and gas resources. End speculative leasing.

DAMAGE FROM ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEASE AREAS
Assessment and development of lease areas require seismic surveys, drilling operations, oil transport by tankers, the installation of platforms, pipelines, and other infrastructure. These activities would cause significant damage to the marine environment and its sea life. Sonic testing is particularly harmful to whale species, interfering with their abilities to echolocate, navigate, and avoid predators and ships.

HIGH RISK AND IMPACTS OF OIL SPILLS

Offshore oil drilling would expose ocean communities to the ever-present risks of oil spills and onshore impacts which can be catastrophic to the environment, the economy, ocean recreation, tourism, and the fisheries industry. The Chumash National Heritage Marine Sanctuary is a unique area off the Central Coast of California and must be protected.

Locally, our community has experienced and remains traumatized by two previous major oil spills. The 1969 Union Oil Spill released 3 million gallons of oil into the Santa Barbara channel, killing 10,000 birds and other wildlife. The Refugio Spill in 2015 released 142,000 gallons of crude oil from a ruptured pipeline.

WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

According to a national poll, an estimated 64% of registered U.S. voters are opposed to new offshore drilling. The widespread opposition is bipartisan and reflected throughout various regions of the country.

SLO Climate Coalition and Mothers for Peace demand the protection of all U.S. waters including the Atlantic OCS Region by rejecting any new oil and gas leasing in the 11th OCS Oil and Gas Program.

John Smigelski
Program Lead
Uniting the Central Coast for Action
SLO Climate Coalition

Jill ZamEk
Board Member
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace