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# Comment from Santa Cruz Climate Action Network

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Dec 19, 2025

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We are writing in strong opposition to the proposed off-shore drilling and deep sea mining along the Pacific Coast.
The Pacific coast is a scenic treasure drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. More importantly, it is an ecological buffer for marine life and an extraordinary cache for ocean discovery–in the Monterey Bay alone, a new species is discovered from the ocean floor EVERY SINGLE DAY! Both of these benefits would be destroyed by oil rigs and inevitable spills–the likes of those in 2015 and 2021–that killed grey whales, sea otters, pelicans and many other creatures important for the health of the ocean and the entire planet. We have learned through past catastrophes that there is no “safe” oil extraction within our coastal waters!
The economy of coastal cities relies on tourism which would be negatively affected. Oil rigs–however gaily lit–do not contribute to the sense of awe experienced by those visiting the coast and experiencing the vastness of the ocean, the curve of the planet and the breath of clean air.
Coastal wetlands essential to the ecosystem would also be at risk. These areas are necessary for water purification, flood protection, habitat protection and erosion control.
Commercial and recreational fishing would be threatened.
Clean energy is accelerating and already cheaper than oil/gas. Oil supplies are overabundant. By the time these wells would be productive, they would be redundant.
Most coastal counties have ordinances blocking the infrastructure necessary for offshore oil/gas production. This would necessitate significant transportation costs to any such undertakings.
The Pacific Coast has a chain of National Marine Sanctuaries which were specifically established to prevent future oil drilling. Any violation of their protected status would be a crime.

For these reasons, we demand that you not allow these leases to proceed. Be assured that there will be strenuous opposition, costing your agency, and therefore the tax payer, both time and money.

We are a 1950 member strong climate group in Santa Cruz with many powerful allies equally opposed to this ill conceived proposal.

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