Save My Coast Coalition Elected Officials Joint Statement

January 15 , 2025

To the Trump Administration and Director of the Department of the Interior,

The Save My Coast Coalition - a non-partisan coalition representing California Counties, Cities, and elected officials - is organized to fiercely protect our valuable coastal ecosystems from harm. Currently consisting of Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Sonoma, San Mateo, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Diego Counties, and the City of Santa Cruz the group continues to grow as the threats to offshore drilling and deep seabed mining become an issue. We write in **firm opposition to any plans to lease offshore lands for the purposes of offshore drilling and/or deep sea mining**. Protecting our coast is not only an environmental imperative—it's a matter of **economic resilience**, **public safety**, and **climate justice**. The legacy of California's coastline belongs to future generations—and it must remain off-limits to offshore drilling forever.

As elected officials representing California's coastal communities that would be repeatedly impacted by the Draft OCS Proposed Program (DPP), we hereby find that the Department of Interior's (Interior) lack of transparency and failure to accommodate public input by not providing a single public hearing on its DPP, while curtailing the brief written comment period to coincide with two major national holidays, is in violation of both the National Environmental Protection Act and the OCS Lands Act as Amended (OCSLAA). Further, for Interior to single out the California coast for redundant OCS leasing after arbitrarily deleting the entire Atlantic coast runs counter to the *critical balancing* requirements at the heart of OCSLAA.

For Interior to disregard the half-century of bipartisan cooperation that has led to the designation of five National Marine Sanctuaries along the California coast whose Designation Documents, Management Plans, and Regulations all clearly preclude any type of seabed disturbance, violates the National Marine Sanctuary Act (NMSA) as well as NEPA. We also find it unacceptable Interior's failure to address or accommodate our communities' longstanding *Onshore OCS Facilities Ordinances*, duly adopted by 27 local governments now being targeted by redundant lease sales in your DPP, which have been in force for 40 years. **We demand that Bureau of Ocean Energy**

Management (BOEM) immediately withdraw and cease action on the "2025 Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program"

Decades ago people from across the state of California stood up against these proposals, which we know from experience causes significant environmental damage as result of oil spills and destruction of our natural environment. California is a leader to the world in showing how we can produce clean energy that not only powers our homes, but also protects our environment. **Drilling in our oceans will not only destroy our environments, but will also destroy our economy, and we will not allow this to happen.**

Just as we organized to protect our coastal resources in the 1980's, we will work with non-profits, our state and federally elected representatives, and people across this great nation and this great world to protect our California coast again. On behalf of the Coalition our message is clear: **The California coast and the waters off its shores are not for sale and we will fight with every resource that we have at our disposal to make sure it stays that way**.

Sincerely,

Justin Cummings, Ph.D.
Third District Supervisor
Santa Cruz County
Co-Chair Save My Coast Coalition

Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Vice Mayor
City of Santa Cruz
Co-Chair Save My Coast Coalition

Cc: Santa Cruz, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Sonoma, San Mateo, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Diego Counties, and the City of Santa Cruz