CITY OF MARINA
211 Hillcrest Avenue
Marina, CA 93933
831-884-1278; FAX 831-384-9148
www.cityofmarina.org

January 22, 2026

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

**Re: Opposition to Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Deep Seabed Mining**

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

On behalf of the City of Marina, we write to express our strong opposition to any proposal that would allow offshore oil and gas drilling or deep seabed mining along the California coast or in adjacent federal waters.

The City of Marina is a coastal community whose economy, environment, and quality of life are inextricably linked to a healthy and resilient ocean ecosystem. Offshore oil and gas drilling poses well-documented risks, including oil spills, chronic pollution, seismic testing impacts, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. These activities threaten marine life, coastal habitats, fisheries, tourism, and the long-term sustainability of our coastal economy. Even a single spill could cause irreversible harm to the Monterey Bay region and its communities.

Similarly, deep seabed mining presents significant and largely irreversible risks to marine ecosystems that remain poorly understood. Scientific research indicates that seabed mining can destroy fragile habitats, disrupt carbon sequestration processes, generate toxic sediment plumes, and cause harm to species that may take centuries—or longer—to recover. Given the substantial scientific uncertainty and the global importance of healthy oceans in addressing climate change, the City of Marina supports a precautionary approach and opposes the authorization of deep seabed mining activities.

At a time when coastal communities are already facing the impacts of sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and climate change, expanding fossil fuel extraction and destructive seabed practices runs counter to California's climate goals and the public interest. Instead, we urge continued investment in clean, renewable energy, coastal conservation, and sustainable ocean-based industries that protect both our environment and our economy.

For these reasons, the City of Marina respectfully urges you to reject any plans, permits, or leases that would enable offshore oil and gas drilling or deep seabed mining. We stand in support of policies that safeguard marine ecosystems, respect the concerns of coastal communities, and ensure a healthy ocean for current and future generations. We are committed to collaboratively

working with other jurisdictions to protect California's coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems from offshore drilling.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Layne Long
City Manager
City of Marina, CA