COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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December 16, 2025

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

SUBJECT: Opposition to New Offshore Oil Drilling and Seabed Mining

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

The County has a substantial history of involvement and opposition to leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for oil and gas development. Major issues involve potential adverse impacts to the land and marine environment, air quality, economic impacts on commercial and recreational fishing, oil spill impacts and tourism. These concerns are reflected in a number of adopted County plans and policies including the Local Coastal Program and the County Offshore Energy Element.

Our county has had a front row seat on the issues and activities associated with offshore oil experienced by our neighbor to the south- Santa Barbara County. While San Luis Obispo County has never had to grapple with a major off shore oil disaster, such as the oil spill that occurred in 2015 north of Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, we have had extensive experience dealing with the calamitous aftermath of oil company negligence and equipment failure resulting in the massive clean-ups of the Guadalupe Dunes Oil Field and the town of Avila Beach.

It is important to note that in 1986, a voter initiative, "Measure A," was approved by the voters of San Luis Obispo County and is now a part of the County's Local Coastal Program. Measure A requires that any permit or authorization allowing the development or establishment of any support facility for offshore oil and gas activity must be approved by a majority of voters at a special or general election. The passage of Measure A in 1986 and subsequent denial by the voters of an application by Shell Oil was an excellent gauge by which to judge the concerns and will of the citizens of San Luis Obispo County, and those concerns run just as strongly today.

A substantial portion of the economy of San Luis Obispo County relies on tourism. These tourism dollars reflect visitors enjoying the beaches, natural scenic beauty and natural resources that exemplify San Luis Obispo County. In addition, survey after survey of the residents of San Luis Obispo County place the "quality of life" and the "environment" as some of the top reasons for living in this area. The effects of offshore oil exploration and extraction would create a grave risk to these resources and further threaten commercial and recreational fishing off the coast and the overall quality of life for our citizens.

The County of San Luis Obispo is resolutely opposed to the Draft Proposed Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and to any expansion of oil and gas exploration or extraction off our coastline. The risk of environmental and economic catastrophe substantial outweighs any potential benefits. We urge your opposition to all new offshore oil and gas drilling and seabed mining off the California Central Coast, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Chairperson
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

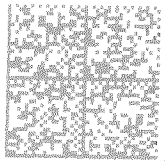
ATTEST:

MATTHEW P. PONTES, Ex-Officio
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Sandy Currens
Deputy Clerk

San Luis Obispo County Clerk of the Board
1055 Monterey Street, Ste. D-430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



—IMPORTANT—
THE MATTER DESCRIBED IN THIS HEARING NOTICE MAY AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY

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Kelly Hammerle
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Sterling, VA 20166-9216

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