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January 17, 2026

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

Re: Letter in Opposition to the Draft Proposed Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of the Humboldt Bay, Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, we offer our absolute opposition to offshore oil operations of any kind, planning, exploration, leasing, production or otherwise, along the Northern California Coast. As one of the most well-preserved, protected, and naturally productive coastlines in the nation, such activities offer risk far beyond measure.

In a time of the gutting of government departments and programs that protect our environment, our people, and our rural way of life, and as we most notably suffer the effects of climate change, which are notably far beyond measure, we stand up and say “hell no” to this reckless plan. We say “hell no” to the devastating effects of potential oil spills, which could decimate our coastline, our coastal economies, vital ecosystems, and our sacred coastal lands, as have been witnessed time and again, with oil spills along the shores of our great nation. We say “hell no” to the blatant disregard for decades of work of the people of our great state, working tirelessly, in tandem, to protect our coastline, our communities, and our future generations from the effects of senseless and careless greed. We say “hell no” to a plan that lines the pockets of a self-serving minority with a clear political and genuine disregard for the true, pure, and honest hardworking majority.

As a simple reflection of history, may we highlight the estimated 3,500,000 gallons of oil that have spilled into our coastal waters, landing on California’s beaches between 1969 and 2021, resulting in an incredible loss of wildlife, productive sea life, benthic habitat, sacred coastal resources, and fertile coastal lands. May the record reflect this great loss, which in fact is related only to production facilities and does not recognize an estimated additional 500,000 gallons from barges and ships which traverse these great waters and clearly not without incident.

The learned and known risks, and the potential effects of such an expansion are simply too far to measure, and for this we collectively stand in absolute opposition to the proposed program and ask for the immediate removal of the Northern California region, as we also advocate for the removal of the entire California coast.

Respectfully,

Chris Mikkelsen
Executive Director