VICE CHAIR KATRINA FOLEY

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FIFTH DISTRICT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
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December 17, 2025

Docket ID: BOEM-2025-0483

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

OPPOSITION: The 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Acting Director Matt Giacona:

On behalf of the residents we represent on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, we write to express our strong opposition to the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program draft proposal that authorizes new offshore oil drilling along the California coastline.

Orange County's 42 miles of sandy beaches are central to our local economy, identity, and quality of life. Our coastline supports family-owned small businesses, fuels approximately one-third of the County's tourism economy, and sustains a vibrant coastal economy that residents and visitors rely on every day.

Offshore drilling and related pipeline operations pose significant risks to coastal communities. Oil spills release toxic pollution that threatens public health, disrupts recreation and local economies, damages marine ecosystems, and destroys critical wildlife habitat. These risks are not hypothetical. On October 1, 2021, Orange County suffered the devastating consequences of offshore drilling when a ruptured pipeline released more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach. The spill impacted shoreline communities as far south as Dana Point and caused more than $100 million in environmental and economic damage. This disaster exposed the long-lasting harm caused by mismanaged offshore infrastructure.

The California coastline produces a relatively small amount of oil compared to the enormous economic, environmental, and public health risks associated with new offshore drilling. These risks jeopardize a multi-billion-dollar coastal economy that supports local workers, businesses, and families. Ocean tourism and recreation alone generate approximately $250 billion in GDP and support ten times more jobs than the offshore oil industry. A clean and healthy ocean environment drives these industries and defines Orange County's coastal lifestyle.

Opposition to new offshore oil and gas development is widespread and bipartisan. Nationwide, more than 400 municipalities, 2,500 elected officials, 59,000 businesses, and 500,000 fishing families oppose expanding offshore drilling.

Orange County remains committed to working collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to safeguard our coastline, ensure accountability, and advance policies that protect coastal communities, ecosystems, and our regional economy.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose any new offshore oil drilling and urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to reject proposals that place our coastline, communities, and economy at risk. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alyssa Napuri, Deputy Chief of Staff District 5, directly at (714) 558-3550 or Alyssa.Napuri@bos5.oc.gov. Thank you for your continued leadership and for considering our request.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Foley
Vice Chair
Orange County Board of Supervisors
Fifth District

Vicente Sarmiento
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Second District

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Comments for the 11th National OCS Oil + Gas Leasing Program

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