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Comment from Wonderfil, PBC

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Feb 24, 2026

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I am writing to respectfully ask the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to deny any proposals for new offshore oil and gas leasing along the California coast. Expanding offshore drilling in this area would create avoidable risks for coastal communities, local economies, and the Pacific Coast's uniquely rich marine ecosystems.

California's coastal economy supports tens of billions of dollars each year through tourism, outdoor recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, ports, and research institutions. These sectors rely on clean shorelines and healthy ocean environments. Past incidents—including the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and the 2015 Refugio pipeline rupture—show that even a single accident can result in long-term economic harm, damage fisheries, and lead to costly cleanup efforts borne by the public.

The environmental consequences are equally serious. The California Current Large Marine Ecosystem is among the most biologically diverse marine regions globally, providing habitat for whales, sea lions, seabirds, kelp forests, cold-water reefs, and many threatened and endangered species. Offshore drilling heightens the risk of spills, chronic pollution, increased underwater noise, and long-lasting habitat disturbance at a time when ocean ecosystems are already under increasing pressure from climate change.

Opposition to new offshore drilling off California is also broadly bipartisan. Coastal cities and counties, Tribal governments, fishing organizations, small businesses, and residents from across the political spectrum have consistently expressed that protecting the coastline is a shared priority. Californians of all political affiliations place greater value on clean beaches, healthy fisheries, and resilient local economies than on expanded fossil fuel development.

For these reasons, I urge BOEM to move forward with a leasing program that includes no new offshore oil and gas leases along California's coast. Safeguarding this region is critical to supporting local economies, protecting marine biodiversity, and respecting the clear public consensus that our coastline should remain clean, healthy, and vibrant.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

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