



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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January 18, 2018

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
(VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the Santa Cruz City Council, I am writing to express opposition to the proposed five-year Oil and Continental Gas (OCS) leasing program that will significantly weaken protections of our California coast.

As you know, on January 8, 2018, the Department of Interior published its draft proposed program (DPP), "2019–2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program." If approved, the proposed program would set in motion the largest expansion of offshore oil and gas leasing in United States history, proposing 47 lease sales in all four Outer Continental Shelf regions to include 25 of the 26 planning areas. The DPP proposes seven lease sales in the Pacific Region (two each for Northern California, Central California, and Southern California, and one for Washington/Oregon). There have been no sales in the Pacific Region since 1984.

On December 5, 2017, the City of Santa Cruz unanimously supported a resolution that urges the continued protection of our ocean and coast from offshore drilling, exploration, and fracking. The City of Santa Cruz and its visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy. Our City's residents value our State's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds, that depend on a healthy and clean environment. Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific coast put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage. Expanding offshore and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation

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techniques threaten coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health, and climate. In fact, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the Coast of Santa Barbara, damaged wildlife, and impacted recreational and commercial activities.

As you know, no new Federal offshore oil and gas leases have been granted off the California coast since 1984. The City of Santa Cruz is opposed to the inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific coast in the pending DPP and any other future national programs. Additionally, the State of California prohibits new oil and gas leasing in State waters due to the high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment. Further, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, and the State Lands Commission, along with several cities, have taken a stand against new Federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities, including this one, have called for a ban on offshore fracking.

As the current administration is now considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas that have largely been off-limits to new Federal leasing, including the Pacific coast, our City hereby submits these aforementioned comments as strong opposition to any proposed offshore oil and gas leases. The City of Santa Cruz supports: 1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in Federal and State waters off the California coast; and 2) no new Federal oil and gas leasing in all United States waters, including off the coast of California.

Please accept these comments for your review at the hearing to be held in Sacramento, California, on February 8, 2018. We urge you to oppose the proposed five-year OCS leasing program and take action to increase protections of our California (and nation's) coast.

Sincerely,



David J. Terrazas
Mayor

cc: City Clerk

Hon. Congressman Jimmy Panetta, (CA-20)

Santa Cruz City Council

Dan Haifley, Executive Director, O'Neill Sea Odyssey

Nik Strong-Cvetich, Executive Director, Save the Waves

Sam Blakesley, Chairperson, Surfrider Foundation, Santa Cruz Chapter

Jim Littlefield, Vice-Chairperson, Surfrider Foundation, Santa Cruz Chapter

Katherine O'Dea, Executive Director, Save Our Shores

Dr. Tiffany Wise-West, Sustainability and Climate Action Manager, City of Santa Cruz