

CITY of CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA



February 26, 2018

Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief,
National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch
Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Re: Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

The City of Carpinteria (City) is submitting this letter in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program (DPP) for 2019 through 2024 as proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as referenced in Federal Register Volume 83, Number 5 (Monday, January 8, 2018) Notices, Pages 829-834, FR Doc No: 2018-00083.

The City opposes the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program because such action threatens the regional tourism-based economy which relies on healthy ecosystems and fisheries and the multiple visitor-serving industries that depend on them.

The Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program (Program) fails to consider the laws, goals, and policies of the affected regions, including California's federally-certified Coastal Zone Management Plan, California's longstanding State Tidelands Oil and Gas Sanctuary, relevant Local Coastal Plans, such as the City of Carpinteria's certified LCP.

Carpinteria is an attractive visitor destination with desirable beaches, open spaces, valuable coastal resources and environmentally sensitive areas. The ocean environment and related coastal resources are integral to the community's identity and the local economy. Among the many unique coastal assets are near shore reefs, a harbor seal sanctuary and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh that is a part of the University of California Reserve System. Carpinteria is also home to the Carpinteria State Beach Campground, which attracts over 1 million visitors annually. Carpinteria residents, visitors and businesses value its small town charm and quality of life, which contribute to successful businesses and support high property values.

Oil and gas production in the region is inconsistent with the long-term vision and land use and development policies supported by the City. Oil and gas production requires ocean and nearshore development and activities that can pollute ocean water and damage coastal environments for decades if not permanently. Given these risks, the City is opposed to BOEM's proposed oil and gas leasing program as it relates to the Santa Barbara Channel.

The City of Carpinteria appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024.

Sincerely,

Fred Shaw, Mayor
City of Carpinteria