

California Central Coast Caucus

Assemblymembers

Dawn Addis (Co-Chair)
Gregg Hart (Co-Chair)
Rivas (Speaker)
Steve Bennett
Jacqui Irwin
Gail Pellerin



Senators

Monique Limón (Vice Chair)
Anna M. Caballero Robert
John Laird
Henry I. Stern

June 19, 2025
Kelly Hammerle
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development Manager
Main Interior Building
1849 C Street
NW Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Central Coast Caucus Opposition to the Proposed 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

On behalf of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC), we are writing to express our strong opposition to any and all oil and gas leasing off the coast of California.

The CLCCC was established to raise the profile of the Central Coast in the California State Legislature. We work to identify and prioritize issues important to the region for advocacy before the state and federal government. The Caucus includes representation from Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. Collectively, we represent over 2 million Californians who produce billions of dollars for the California economy through industries such as tourism, agriculture, and clean technology.

On April 30, 2025, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) opened a 45-day public-comment period to receive input on the 2029 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) 11th National Oil and Gas Leasing Program (Program) that would govern oil and gas leasing in federal waters off the United States coastline, including California. As representatives of California, we strongly oppose oil and gas leasing off our coast.

The Central Coast is very familiar with the damage to local economies, biodiversity, and the environment that can be caused by offshore oil drilling. Our communities are too often left to deal with the devastating consequences of oil and gas company negligence, including spills and massive oil field cleanups paid for by taxpayers. The 1969 offshore drilling blowout off the coast of Santa Barbara helped spark the modern environmental movement and led to the founding of Earth Day. More recently, in 2015, an oil pipeline near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara ruptured and dumped 142,800 gallons of crude oil along the coast and into the Pacific Ocean. The total cost to clean up the spill, including legal claims and settlements, was approximately \$257 million.

According to NOAA's 2024 Marine Economy analysis, California's marine economy contributes close to \$70 billion to the State's GDP and employs more than half a million people. Tourism and recreation account for 44% of the \$70 billion, while offshore oil and gas resources make up only 4% of the total marine economy GDP. Protecting our marine economy will produce far more in return than opening up our precious resources for oil and gas exploration.

Recognizing the economic benefits of our coastal resources, in April 2025, Representative Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24) introduced the California Clean Coast Act in Congress to permanently ban future offshore oil and gas leasing in the OCS. Many local jurisdictions along the coast have also passed resolutions and ordinances to demonstrate their steadfast opposition to offshore oil.

The Central Coast Caucus strongly urges your opposition to any oil and gas leasing off the California Coast. The potential economic gains for the state from increased oil production offshore are vastly outweighed by the possible damage to the economy and environment that can occur.

Sincerely,



DAWN ADDIS

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 30th District



GREGG HART

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 37th District



MONIQUE LIMÓN

Vice Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Senator, 21st District

The California Legislative Central Coast Caucus

SENATORS

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