

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Referral Submittal Form**

Referral No. 2025.17
Assignment Date: 11/18/25
(Completed by CAO's Office)

SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:

Date: 11/3/2025	Submitted By: Supervisor Wendy Root Askew	District #: 4
Referral Title: Local Government Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coordination Program and Coalition		
Referral Purpose: Consider adopting a resolution to affirm the County of Monterey's opposition to offshore drilling and seabed mining, as well as consider joining and financially contributing to the Local Governments OCS Coordination Program to ensure the local government perspective is not diminished in federal decision making.		
Brief Referral Description (attach additional sheet as required): With the signing of the executive order Unleashing American Energy Act in January of 2025, federal agencies are moving quickly to open new offshore drilling opportunities. Additionally, in April 2025, President Trump signed the Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources executive order, which promotes deep seabed mining that poses serious threats to California's coastal economies, marine ecosystems, and climate goals. As a result, Santa Cruz County has initiated the re-establishment of the Local Governments OCS Coordination Program. The group's original membership consisted of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, City and County of San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Humboldt, along with several cities including Santa Cruz, Laguna Beach, and Newport Beach, and SANDAG. Individual local governments often lack the staff capacity to monitor fast-moving federal actions, review complex technical documents, and engage directly with Congress and federal agencies. Additionally, without coordinated participation, the local government perspective is often diminished in federal decision making. The Local Government OCS Coordination Program provides the infrastructure to address these challenges by offering shared resources, timely updates, and direct representation. It is estimated that the annual costs for the coordination efforts will be ~\$250,000, which would be shared across participating jurisdictions to help reduce the cost burden on individual jurisdictions.		
Classification - Implication		Mode of Response
☐ Ministerial / Minor X Land Use Policy ☐ Social Policy ☐ Budget Policy X Other:		☐ Memo X Board Report ☐ Presentation
		Requested Response Timeline
		☐ 2 weeks X 1 month ☐ 6 weeks
		☐ Status reports until completed ☐ Other: ☐ Specific Date:

ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s) Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s): CAO	Referral Lead: Nick Chiulos	Board Date: 11/18/25
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REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO's Office:

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Date:
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ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:
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Analysis Completed By: _____	Department's Recommended Response Timeline
Date: _____	☐ By requested date ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 1 month ☐ 6 weeks ☐ 6 months ☐ 1 year ☐ Other/Specific Date: _____

REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:		
Referral Response Date:	Board Item No.:	Referrals List Deletion:

Note: Please cc Claudia Escalante and Karina Bokanovich on all CAO correspondence relating to referrals.