



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

Luis A. Alejo, District 1
Glenn Church, Chair, District 2
Chris M. Lopez, Vice Chair, District 3
Wendy Root Askew, District 4
Mary L. Adams, District 5

Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 470, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 – Support

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to express our support for the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 (H.R. 470).

As you know, California began efforts to block offshore drilling in 1969 when an oil rig off the coast of Santa Barbara leaked 3 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, blanketing beaches with a thick layer of oil and killing thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history until the Exxon Valdez spill 20 years later. After the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, California blocked all new offshore oil drilling in state waters, protecting our coastal waters up to three miles from the shore. The state reinforced that ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new leasing in state waters.

In October 2021, a ruptured pipeline from an existing oil well spilled more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean and onto the beaches of Orange County. Despite numerous alarms, operators allowed oil to flow from the leak for over 14 hours. The spill covered more than 8,000 acres of the ocean's surface and required more than a week of cleanup while local businesses and fisheries suffered.

No new offshore drilling has been allowed in federal waters along the Pacific Coast since 1984. However, there was a proposal in 2018 to open up the entire West Coast to new drilling. That proposal was blocked by the courts but the threat of drilling will remain until a permanent ban is enacted. The West Coast Ocean Protection Act would permanently protect these waters that are essential to coastal economies and healthy marine ecosystems. Nearly 70% of Californians opposed offshore drilling according to recent polling by the Public Policy Institute of California.

We appreciate your continued support for Monterey County, and we urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 470, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District



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March 11, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 22, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 – Support

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Butler:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to express our support for the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 (S. 22).

As you know, California began efforts to block offshore drilling in 1969 when an oil rig off the coast of Santa Barbara leaked 3 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, blanketing beaches with a thick layer of oil and killing thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history until the Exxon Valdez spill 20 years later. After the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, California blocked all new offshore oil drilling in state waters, protecting our coastal waters up to three miles from the shore. The state reinforced that ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new leasing in state waters.

In October 2021, a ruptured pipeline from an existing oil well spilled more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean and onto the beaches of Orange County. Despite numerous alarms, operators allowed oil to flow from the leak for over 14 hours. The spill covered more than 8,000 acres of the ocean's surface and required more than a week of cleanup while local businesses and fisheries suffered.

No new offshore drilling has been allowed in federal waters along the Pacific Coast since 1984. However, there was a proposal in 2018 to open up the entire West Coast to new drilling. That proposal was blocked by the courts but the threat of drilling will remain until a permanent ban is enacted. The West Coast Ocean Protection Act would permanently protect these waters that are essential to coastal economies and healthy marine ecosystems. Nearly 70% of Californians opposed offshore drilling according to recent polling by the Public Policy Institute of California.

We appreciate your continued support for Monterey County, and we thank you for co-sponsoring S. 22, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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March 11, 2024

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 470, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 – Support

Dear Congressman Panetta:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing to express our support for the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023 (H.R. 470).

As you know, California began efforts to block offshore drilling in 1969 when an oil rig off the coast of Santa Barbara leaked 3 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, blanketing beaches with a thick layer of oil and killing thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history until the Exxon Valdez spill 20 years later. After the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, California blocked all new offshore oil drilling in state waters, protecting our coastal waters up to three miles from the shore. The state reinforced that ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new leasing in state waters.

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No new offshore drilling has been allowed in federal waters along the Pacific Coast since 1984. However, there was a proposal in 2018 to open up the entire West Coast to new drilling. That proposal was blocked by the courts but the threat of drilling will remain until a permanent ban is enacted. The West Coast Ocean Protection Act would permanently protect these waters that are essential to coastal economies and healthy marine ecosystems. Nearly 70% of Californians opposed offshore drilling according to recent polling by the Public Policy Institute of California.

We appreciate your continued support for Monterey County, and we thank you for co-sponsoring H.R. 470, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District



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Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Board Order

168 West Alisal Street,
1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831.755.5066

Upon motion of Supervisor Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Salinas and carried by those members present, the Board of Supervisors hereby:

Adopted Resolution 18-040 in opposition to the U.S. Interior Department Offshore Oil and Gas Development proposal.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 13th day of February 2018, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Salinas, Phillips, Parker and Adams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

I, Nicholas E. Chiulos, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 80 for the meeting February 13, 2018.

Dated: February 14, 2018
File ID: RES 18-011

Nicholas E. Chiulos, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By Denise Hancock
Deputy

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No. 18-040

Resolution in opposition to)
the U.S. Interior Department)
Offshore Oil and Gas)
Development Proposal)

WHEREAS, Monterey County residents and visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County residents and visitors value our state's ocean and coastal environment, which support a wide array of plant communities and tens of thousands of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals, including numerous rare, threatened and endangered species that depend on a healthy, clean environment; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary showcases and safeguards the extraordinary ocean wildlife and habitats of Monterey Bay and the Central Coast that help drive our economy and inspire visitors from around the world to travel to our shores; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the State of California prohibits new oil and gas leasing in state waters due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) requires the preparation of a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program, setting forth a five-year schedule of lease sales designed to "best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following its approval or re-approval." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management within the U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for implementing the requirements of the OCS Lands Act related to preparing the leasing program; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the principles of section 18 and the resulting regionally tailored leasing strategy, the current exclusion of the Pacific OCS from new oil and gas development is consistent with the long-standing interests of Pacific coast states, as framed in the 2006 Agreement on Ocean Health adopted by the governors of California, Washington, and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, along with many communities on the Pacific coast, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County believes that new oil and gas development in the Pacific OCS can threaten the environment, delay the nation's movement toward a greater reliance on renewable energy development, contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions, and can adversely affect tourism and fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration is considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently released a draft 2019–2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program that proposes 47 new lease sales across all OCS regions, including seven lease sales in the Pacific Region and two in the Central California planning area; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein has requested Monterey County and all California counties to adopt resolutions expressing opposition to new offshore oil and gas development in California; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors strongly and unequivocally supports the existing ban on new oil and gas drilling in federal waters offshore California and opposes attempts by the Federal Government to modify the ban; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrative Office distribute a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Governor Jerry Brown, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and to Monterey County's local State Legislators.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Salinas and carried this 13th day of February 2018, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Phillips, Salinas, Parker and Adams

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

I, Nicholas E. Chiulos, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 80 for the meeting on February 13, 2018.

Dated: February 14, 2018
File Number: RES 18-011

Nicholas E. Chiulos, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By Denise Hancock
Deputy



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August 14, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2882, the Central Coast of California Conservation Act of 2025 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Panetta:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2882, the Central Coast of California Conservation Act of 2025.

The Central Coast of California Conservation Act would impose a moratorium on all new oil and gas leasing on federal public land on the central coast of California. As you know, the County strongly opposed the Trump administration's 2019 decision to allow fracking and drilling on 725,500 acres of public lands and mineral estate across California's Central Coast and the San Francisco Bay Area. The County filed a protest of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) decision that highlighted our primary concerns over potential public health impacts, environmental concerns, protection of underground sources of drinking water, the preservation of public infrastructure, dam safety, and the preservation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

We support the approach of your legislation that would prohibit the BLM from implementing the decision until it completes and publishes a supplemental environmental impact statement assessing the potential impacts of oil and gas drilling on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, groundwater, surface water, seismicity, wildlife and plant species, low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities. We are also hopeful that the administration will review this misguided decision as part of its broader effort to address the climate crisis.

We are pleased to offer our support for the Central Coast of California Conservation Act, and we thank you for your leadership on this important issue facing Monterey County and other communities on the central coast of California.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California



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August 14, 2025

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
200 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2849, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2025 – Support

Dear Representative Lofgren and Representative Panetta:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2025 (H.R. 2849).

As you know, California began efforts to block offshore drilling in 1969 when an oil rig off the coast of Santa Barbara leaked 3 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, blanketing beaches with a thick layer of oil and killing thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history until the Exxon Valdez spill 20 years later. After the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, California blocked all new offshore oil drilling in state waters, protecting our coastal waters up to three miles from the shore. The state reinforced that ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new leasing in state waters.

In October 2021, a ruptured pipeline from an existing oil well spilled more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean and onto the beaches of Orange County. Despite numerous alarms, operators allowed oil to flow from the leak for over 14 hours. The spill covered more than 8,000 acres of the ocean's surface and required more than a week of cleanup while local businesses and fisheries suffered.

No new offshore drilling has been allowed in federal waters along the Pacific Coast since 1984. However, there was a proposal in 2018 to open up the entire West Coast to new drilling. That proposal was blocked by the courts but the threat of drilling will remain until a permanent ban is enacted. The West Coast Ocean Protection Act would permanently protect these waters that are essential to coastal economies and healthy marine ecosystems. Nearly 70 percent of Californians opposed offshore drilling according to recent polling by the Public Policy Institute of California.

We appreciate your continued support for Monterey County, and thank you for co-sponsoring H.R. 2849, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2025.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors



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Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

August 14, 2025

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Re: Letter Opposing the Proposed 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of the County of Monterey I am writing to express the County's strong opposition to the proposed 11th National Oil and Gas Leasing Program. In April of this year, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a public comment period for its proposed 2029 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which would allow for the sale of leases for oil and gas in federal waters off the California coast, and other states.

California has a long history of efforts to block offshore drilling dating back to 1969 when an oil rig off the coast of Santa Barbara leaked 3 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, blanketing beaches with a thick layer of oil and killing thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was the largest oil spill in U.S. history until the Exxon Valdez spill 20 years later. After the 1969 Santa Barbara spill, California blocked all new offshore oil drilling in state waters, protecting our coastal waters up to three miles from the shore. The state reinforced that ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new leasing in state waters. Then in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas affected by the 1969 oil spill.

Further, in October 2021, a ruptured pipeline from an existing oil well spilled more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the ocean and onto the beaches of Orange County. Despite numerous alarms, operators allowed oil to flow from the leak for over 14 hours. The spill covered more than 8,000 acres of the ocean's surface and required more than a week of cleanup while local businesses and fisheries suffered.

The County of Monterey has seen these devastating impacts to the California coast and has historically been concerned with this program, passing a 2018 resolution which supported a ban on new oil and gas drilling in federal waters offshore California. Today, the County is even more concerned with the suggestion that new lease sales for oil and gas exploration and drilling might include marine sanctuaries, such as the Channel Islands and Chumash Heritage sanctuaries.

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I urge you to oppose any oil and gas leasing off the California Central Coast and in other federal waters. The risk of an environmental or economic disaster is too great and does nothing to address growing concerns regarding the effects of climate change on our coastlines. We urge you to join with us and hundreds of thousands of citizens who are working to ensure the protection of our beautiful, valuable, and important ecological resources.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors



WWW.CO.MONTEREY.CA.US

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District