

DAS WILLIAMS

First District, Chair

JANET WOLF

Second District

JOAN HARTMANN

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Vice Chair



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 21, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On January 30, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt the attached resolution opposing new offshore oil leasing off the coast of California as proposed in the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024.

In Santa Barbara County, both the 1969 oil spill and the 2015 oil pipeline rupture off the Gaviota Coast demonstrated the catastrophic damage that oil extraction can inflict. Both the California public and California lawmakers have long recognized the value of protecting the State's coastal economy and protecting local fisheries and coastlines from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas exploration. In 2017, the California Senate adopted three resolutions (Resolutions 35, 44, and 51), which support the current federal prohibition on new oil or gas drilling in federal waters offshore California, oppose attempts to modify the prohibition, and defend the National Marine Sanctuaries of the United States.

In January of this year, the Department of Interior, through BOEM, released the Draft Proposed Plan for the 2019-2024 offshore Oil and Gas Leasing program which would make 90 percent of the Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS) - including the coastal waters off the coast of Santa Barbara - open to oil and gas exploration. In response, the County of Santa Barbara Board adopted this resolution to oppose new offshore oil leases off the California Coast and to assert that the California Coast deserves protection equal to that of the State of Florida.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilcrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg
Attachment