



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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January 12, 2026

Mayor

Lauren Kleiman

Mayor Pro Tem

Noah Blom

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Ms. Kelly Hammerle

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)

U.S. Department of Interior

45600 Woodland Road,

Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: Opposition to New Lease Sales in the Draft Proposed Program for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program [Docket No. BOEM-2025-0483]

Dear Secretary,

I write on behalf of the City of Newport Beach to express its strong opposition to new oil and gas lease sales as proposed in the next 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Specifically, we ask that you protect the Pacific Region and all other U.S. waters from new oil and gas development.

The expansion of offshore oil and gas development off the California coast would cause significant and unnecessary negative impacts to our state's marine ecosystems, wildlife, coastal communities, and vital recreation and tourism industries. In California, hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's domestic product depend on clean ocean and harbor water and beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife. Offshore oil and gas drilling places communities such as Newport Beach at economic and ecological risk from oil spills, threatening the health of its visitor industry and small businesses, particularly its commercial fisherman. Past oil spills off the California coast have fouled coastal waters and caused economic and environmental damage.

Further, offshore oil and gas development in new areas would require seismic surveys, drilling operations, oil transport by tankers, and the installation of platforms, pipelines and other infrastructure. These activities would further impact the environment, marine wildlife and coastal economies and ways of life. New offshore drilling locations would further expose the marine environment and coastal communities to the risks of oil spills.

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In summary, we ask you to protect all U.S. waters, including the Pacific Region and coastal Orange County, from any new oil and gas leasing in the 11th OCS Oil and Gas Program.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Sincerely,



Lauren Kleiman
Mayor

Cc: Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Adam Schiff
Representative Dave Min
Newport Beach City Council