



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Third District

Subject: Coordinated Opposition to Proposed Offshore Drilling

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Approve the launching of an anti-offshore drilling local coordination effort among local communities in California, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Approve the launching of an anti-offshore oil drilling local coordination effort among local communities in California to oppose the proposed offshore oil drilling program;
2. Approve transfer of appropriations in the amount of \$29,000 from the Capital Fund Contingencies to the District 3 Budget to procure the services of Richard Charter to serve as the coordinator of this anti-offshore drilling local coordination effort; and
3. Direct County staff to work with the Third District Office to support these efforts.

Executive Summary

President Trump has initiated an accelerated effort to initiate the drilling for oil off the coast of California including within the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, which was previously granted “permanent” protection from such drilling. A concentrated and coordinated effort to oppose this misdirected presidential initiative is needed at both the state and local levels and it is appropriate for our County to play a leading role.

Discussion

In the 1970s, the federal government began the oil drilling leasing process off the California shore. In response, both our federal and state officials opposed this proposal, and local coastal communities cooperated to resist it (Attachment A). Santa Cruz County led this local government effort, which was ultimately successful, and Richard Charter was hired to coordinate it.

The current federal government is proposing a very accelerated oil-drilling leasing schedule, and it is important to respond quickly to oppose it. On June 10th, our Board approved the submission of comments opposing the proposal as the last day for comments was June 16th. A coordinated effort among local communities to participate in the legal and political opposition to this effort is essential, and it is also essential to act quickly.

Offshore oil drilling will increase the dangers of climate change and using District 3 Measure K funds to counter this environmental threat is appropriate. Hiring Richard Charter to lead this coordinated effort is also appropriate given his vast experience in this area. His resume is attached (Attachment B). Finally, including the Third District Supervisor in efforts to urge other public and private agencies to join this effort also makes sense in light of the many contacts he developed from his service on the Coastal Commission.

Financial Impact

The attached AUD-74 supports the transfer of \$29,000 from the Capital Fund Contingencies to the District 3 Budget (154000/62381)

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment

Submitted By:

Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.