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CLERK OF THE BOARD  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## Memorandum

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board  
From: Katrina Foley, Fifth District Supervisor  
Date: December 9, 2025

NA for RF

RE: Add Supplemental Item for the December 16, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

5280

Please place a supplemental item on the December 16, 2025 meeting of the Board of Supervisors to collect public comment and for a resolution opposing new offshore oil drilling and direct CEO Legislative Affairs staff to submit resolution and all public comment to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management opposing their 5-year plan to expand new offshore oil drilling off of California's Coast before January 23, 2026.

Background: Orange County's 42 miles of coastline are vital to our economy and quality of life. One third of Orange County's tourism economy is sustained by the ocean economy. The federal government's planned expansion of new offshore oil drilling along the Southern California coast is reckless and unnecessary, reversing long-standing protections put in place due to oil spill risks. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, the United States achieved energy independence in 2019, producing more energy than the nation consumes. New drilling threatens coastal communities, ecosystems, and tourism-dependent economies. More than 1,800 existing drilling leases remain unused, further highlighting how unnecessary new leases off the California coast. Orange County lived the impacts of past spills, leading to one of the largest settlements from the oil and gas industry for consumers in OC history. This resolution affirms the County's commitment to protecting our coastline and preventing further environmental and economic catastrophe.

**RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING**

**WHEREAS, Orange County's 42 miles of sandy beaches define our local identity, support our thriving coastal economy and family owned small businesses, fuel one third of the County's tourism economy, and support our quality of life; and**

**WHEREAS, offshore drilling and associated pipeline operations expose coastal communities to toxic oil spills that decimate local economies, threaten human health, disrupt recreation, harm marine life, and destroy critical wildlife habitat; and**

**WHEREAS, on October 1, 2021, Orange County witnessed first-hand the disastrous impacts of oil spills with more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil covering Huntington Beach's coast and traveling all the way to Dana Point causing more than \$100 million in damage and economic losses, demonstrating the severe, long-lasting consequences of mismanaged offshore drilling infrastructure; and**

**WHEREAS, the California coastline provides a small amount of oil relative to the enormous economic, environmental, and public health risks posed by new offshore drilling, and risks the multi-billion-dollar coastal economy that supports local residents and businesses; and**

**WHEREAS, Ocean tourism and recreation provide \$250 billion in GDP and ten times more jobs than the offshore oil industry, and rely on a clean and healthy coastal and ocean environment; and**

**WHEREAS, Widespread opposition for new offshore oil and gas development includes more than 400 municipalities, 2,500 elected officials, 59,000 businesses, and 500,000 fishing families, nationwide; and**

**WHEREAS, Orange County commits to working collaboratively at all levels of government to safeguard our coastline, ensure accountability, and advance policies that protect our coastal communities.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors hereby opposes any new offshore oil drilling and directs staff to submit a letter of opposition to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management expressing the County's firm opposition to the Administration's new offshore oil drilling proposal.**