

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein (CA)
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla (CA)
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Linda Sanchez (CA38)
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Young Kim (CA39)
1306 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Katie Porter (CA45)
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Correa (CA46)
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal (CA47)
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Steel (CA48)
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Levin (CA49)
1030 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Ending Oil Drilling in Federal Waters Off the California Coastline

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla and Congressmembers Sanchez, Kim, Porter, Correa, Lowenthal, Steel, and Levin,

As elected officials representing Orange County, including the areas most impacted by the recent Orange County Oil Spill, we are writing to urge you, as Orange County's Congressional delegation, to propose and champion legislation that would end ALL offshore oil drilling, including drilling performed under current leases, in federal waters near the California coast.

As you know, there was a significant oil spill off the Orange County coast several days ago, underscoring the need to take swift action. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response first received notification of an observed sheen in federal waters several miles off the coast of Huntington Beach, CA at 10:22pm on Friday, October 1. The spill originated from a pipeline running from the Port of Long Beach to an offshore oil platform known as Elly, which is operated by Beta Offshore, a subsidiary of Amplify Energy. It is estimated that as much as 130,000 gallons of oils have spilled into the ocean, representing one of the largest oil spills our state has seen in decades.

The oil slick created has already touched land in the cities of Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Laguna Beach and continues to threaten the shorelines of Southern California. While we are in the early stages of this spill, our community is bracing for potentially devastating impacts to wildlife, public health, the environment, and local and regional economies.

The Orange County oil spill is unfortunately not an isolated incident in our state. California's coast has been the site of several large oil spills, including the following: ^[1]

- In 1969, a blowout of a Union Oil drilling rig platform off the coast of Santa Barbara resulted in a spill of 4.2 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean and onto nearby shores.
- In 1971, 800,000 gallons of bunker fuel spilled in San Francisco Bay, with a devastating impact on local species.

- In Huntington Beach in 1990, the American Trader oil tanker spilled more than 416,000 gallons of crude oil, killing an estimated 3,400 birds.
- In 2007, a container ship struck the Bay Bridge and spilled 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay.
- On May 19, 2015 a crude oil pipeline spilled 100,000 gallons into the ocean at Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County.

Several of you have already signaled support for Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)'s West Coast Ocean Preservation Act, which would stop all new offshore drilling in the Pacific Ocean, or Congressman Mike Levin's American Coasts and Oceans Protection Act, which would stop new offshore drilling in federal waters off the coast of Southern California. We applaud this strong action, but we urge you to push further by seeking to not only stop all new offshore drilling but also to end drilling and aggregation performed under existing leases in federal waters as well.

As you may be aware, California has not issued new offshore oil leases for over 50 years and has intentionally foregone revenue from any new leases and the associated offshore oil development in state waters and federal waters. The Legislature, Governor, and State Lands Commission have repeatedly called upon the federal government to prohibit offshore oil development in federal waters off the California coast.

Offshore oil drilling threatens California's economy, natural resources, and military assets. Our beautiful beaches and coastal ecosystems are famous throughout the world, and draw over 150 million visitors each year, facilitating a \$44 billion coastal economy that employs over half a million Californians. The economic impacts of the Orange County oil spill are likely to be significant and to last for some time. The economic benefits of offshore drilling are miniscule by comparison.

We recognize that ending all federal offshore oil drilling off the coast of California is a complicated endeavor, and that legislation towards this end will likely face significant political opposition from the oil and gas industries. But given the economic and environmental impacts of this Orange County Oil Spill, and the future risks that offshore drilling poses to our precious coastal communities, we are urging you to be Orange County's champions in the United States Congress and commit to ending all offshore drilling, including under current leases, in federal waters off the coast of California.

We thank you for your consideration and for your tireless advocacy on behalf of our communities.

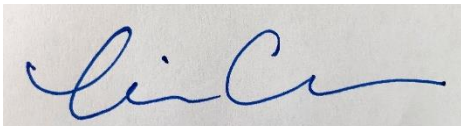
Sincerely,



CA Senator Dave Min (SD37)



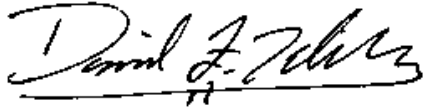
CA Senator Josh Newman (SD29)



Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr*



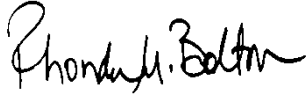
Huntington Beach Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Delgleize*



Huntington Beach Councilmember Dan Kalmick*



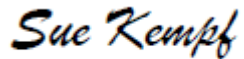
Huntington Beach Councilmember Natalie Moser*



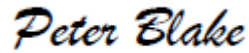
Huntington Beach Councilmember Rhonda Bolton*



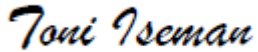
Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen



Laguna Beach Mayor Pro Tempore Sue Kempf



Laguna Beach Councilmember Peter Blake



Laguna Beach Councilmember Toni Iseman



Laguna Beach Councilmember George Weiss

^[1] California Coastal Commission: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/oilspills.html>

* Title given for identifying purposes only