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THIRD READING

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Bill No: SJR 12  
Author: Laird (D), et al.  
Amended: 3/16/26  
Vote: 21

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SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 5-1, 3/24/26  
AYES: Becker, Allen, Cabaldon, Laird, Stern  
NOES: Grove  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto

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**SUBJECT:** Proposed 2026–2031 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas  
Leasing Program: opposition

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This resolution declares the Legislature’s strong and unequivocal opposition to the proposed leasing of federal lands offshore California for oil and gas development given the risks to coastal resources, recreation and economy, and the Legislature’s commitment to take action to maintain the existing prohibition on new federal leasing; and requests the US Bureau of Ocean Engineering Management (BOEM) hold public meetings in the state in advance of any proposed leasing to receive input and prepare an appropriate environmental document for the proposed leasing, among other provisions.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing federal law:

- 1) Establishes the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA)(43 U.S.C. §§1331 *et seq.*) that declares, among other things, that it is the national policy that the OCS is a vital national resource reserve held by the federal government for the public, which should be available for expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, in a manner that is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs.

- 2) Defines the OCS as all submerged lands lying between the seaward extent of the state jurisdiction and the seaward extent of federal jurisdiction.

Existing state law establishes the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 (Public Resources Code §§6240 *et seq.*) which prohibits the State Lands Commission from issuing new oil and gas leases for unleased state tide and submerged lands underlying the Pacific Ocean, as specified. Existing leases are authorized to remain in production.

This resolution:

- 1) States that the California Legislature:
  - a) Considers new oil and gas offshore drilling to be a threat to the nation's and the state's ocean environment and wildlife, ancestral lands and waters of California Native American tribes, marine and coastal economy, national security, and the well-being of all Californians; and inconsistent with the state's ambitious renewable energy goal.
  - b) Requests that BOEM hold public hearings on the proposed leasing plan in the State of California to ensure that all Californians have an opportunity to be heard.
  - c) Requests that BOEM prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement to accompany the 2026 – 2031 National OSC Leasing Program.
  - d) Strongly and unequivocally oppose any new offshore drilling, including the federal government's proposed leasing plan, which would expose the entire California Coast to new offshore drilling and the accompanying risks to coastal environment, fishing, tourism, and recreation from an oil spill.
  - e) Urges the US Secretary of the Interior to remove California from the federal government's proposed leasing plan.
  - f) Declares unequivocal support for the current federal prohibition on new oil or gas drilling in federal waters offshore of the Pacific coast, its opposition to the proposed five-year National OSC Leasing Program or any attempts to modify that prohibition, and its determination to consider any appropriate actions to maintain that prohibition.
- 2) Requires the Secretary of the Senate to transmit copies of the resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Governor of California, certain US Senate and Congressional leaders, the Senators and US

Representatives from California, the Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, the Acting Director of BOEM, and each member of the California Legislature.

- 3) Makes numerous findings in support of the resolution including, among others:
- a) In 2018 the Legislature passed and the Governor signed two bills – SB 834 (Jackson, Chapter 309, Statutes of 2018) and AB 1775 (Muratsuchi, Chapter 310, Statutes of 2018) to prohibit the commission from issuing new leases in support of the construction of new federal OCS oil and gas leases.
  - b) In 2024, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 704 (Min, Chapter 292, Statutes of 2024) to require that any new federal OCS oil and gas development had to fully comply with the California Coastal Act of 1976.
  - c) Twenty-seven municipalities in California have passed ordinances prohibiting or requiring the vote of the people to approve zoning changes to support onshore facilities to support offshore oil and gas production. Over 100 local jurisdictions on the US West Coast have adopted resolutions opposed to an expansion of offshore oil and gas development.
  - d) According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2021 the healthy, clean, and biodiverse ocean supports more than 350,000 jobs, paying over \$12 billion in wages, and generating almost \$26 billion in annual economic activity through fishing, tourism, and recreation.

## **Background**

There are 30 federal OCS oil and gas leases offshore California. No new federal leases have been issued since 1984. The Biden Administration removed offshore California and the rest of the Pacific Coast from future federal OCS oil and gas leasing permanently in January 2025. The Trump Administration has moved to offer 6 federal OCS oil and gas lease areas offshore California as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing program.

[Additional information regarding this resolution may be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee’s analysis.]

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 3/24/26)

350 Humboldt  
350 Santa Barbara  
Active San Gabriel Valley  
Azul, Bixby Residential, Inc.  
California Coastal Protection Network  
California Coastkeeper Alliance  
California Environmental Voters  
California Land Watch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Environmental Health  
Clean Water Action  
Defenders of Wildlife  
CalWild  
CleanEarth4Kids.org  
Climate Action California,  
Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas  
Coastal Corridor Alliance  
Earth Island Institute – International Marine Mammal Project  
Environment California  
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Justice Catholic Charities of Stockton  
Fish On  
Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
FutureSwell  
Heal the Ocean  
Humboldt Waterkeeper  
League of California Cities  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Ocean Conservancy  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Oceana  
Orange County Coastkeeper  
Resource Renewal Institute  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper  
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network  
Save Our Shores  
Save The Bay

Sempervirens Fund  
Sierra Club California  
Surfrider Foundation  
The CORE Project  
Tomales Bay Foundation  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
WILDCOAST

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 3/24/26)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author, “California’s coast is integral to our environment, economy, and identity. The federal administration’s proposed 2026–2031 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program would open up California’s coast to new drilling and increase fossil fuel emissions and have devastating impacts on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Senate Joint Resolution 12 affirms the California Legislature’s opposition to the proposed plan and our commitment to protect marine ecosystems, transition to clean energy, and support coastal economies. This resolution makes clear that Californians, as well as leaders across the country, oppose a reckless offshore drilling plan that ignores environmental risks and input from the public.”

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3/25/26 16:15:08

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