



February 13, 2018

Staff

Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

(submit online to <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Comment>)

Subject: Comments to the Draft Proposed Program for National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing

Dear Staff:

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County joins with the State of California in opposing the inclusion of the Central California Region in the proposed plan to open up leasing to off shore drilling as well as other coastal areas of California.

The 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP) in Table 10.1 explicitly states that the California Central Coast Region is not an economically viable area.

The United States would be better off to concentrate efforts on cleaner and more sustainable energy rather than continue our dependence on oil. We import more oil from Canada and have decreased our imports from undesirable countries.

In addition, the region is home to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It is impossible to protect the region from environmental damage due to oil spills as seen by the continual oil spill problems that exist off the coast of Santa Barbara.

Among the criteria the DPP gives for justifying which areas to include or not is the "laws, goals, and policies of affected states". We strongly support the State of California and its citizens in opposition to opening up further areas to off shore drilling off the California coast. This view is supported by the many letters in opposition to this planned program have been included in the DPP.

Respectfully,

Judi Lehman
President
LWV of Monterey County