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Comment from Michele Kibrick on VA-2026-VACO-0001-0021

Submitter Information

Name: Michele Kibrick
Address: United States,
Email: kibrick@cruzio.com

General Comment

I oppose ALL oil drilling and seabed mining along the California coast. Potential offshore oil and gas leasing across Northern, Central, and Southern California waters poses environmental, economic, and community impacts. There are major risks including oil spills, impacts to marine ecosystems, and economic harm to fisheries, tourism, and coastal businesses that rely on a healthy ocean. There are potential impacts to protected and ecologically important areas such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Many environmental and economic risks (especially oil spills) cannot be fully mitigated once drilling occurs. Offshore drilling is unnecessary and poses unacceptable risks to coastal ecosystems and economies; BOEM should prioritize protecting ocean resources and coastal communities.