



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Fifth District

September 1, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO OPPOSE H.R. 4761, THE DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ACT OF 2006 (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006)**

Item No. 9 on the September 5, 2006 agenda is a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky recommending that the Board oppose H.R. 4761 (Pombo, R-CA), the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act of 2006, and communicate this position to the author and the County's Congressional Delegation.

Over the past 25 years, waters within the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off the coast of California have been protected by Presidential executive orders and a Congressional moratorium on oil and gas development. Since the OCS moratorium was passed in 1981, Congress has voted to renew the ban on off-shore drilling every year. After the environmental disaster resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1990, former President George H. W. Bush issued an executive order in 1991 to prohibit new leasing in the OCS until 2002. In 1998, former President Bill Clinton extended these protections to 2011.

H.R. 4761, which passed the House on June 29, 2006, would revoke all the Presidential executive orders protecting the OCS and significantly change Federal policy on new off-shore oil and gas drilling. The bill also would decrease environmental protections and open previously protected ocean waters in California to new off-shore oil and gas drilling. It would end the 25-year old bipartisan commitment to protect areas 100 miles or more off the coast from oil and gas development. The ban on oil and gas development between 50 miles and 100 miles off the coast also would be eliminated and replaced with a petition process to restore current protections. A state "through its

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Governor and upon concurrence of its legislature" would have one year to petition the Secretary of the Interior to prevent natural gas leasing, and three years to petition against oil and gas leasing. This process must be repeated every five years or leasing could commence. To encourage new oil drilling between three miles and 50 miles off the coast, the bill would provide new financial incentives in the form of significant oil royalties to states that adopt a measure to permit new drilling in near-shore waters.

On August 1, 2006, the Senate passed a narrower off-shore drilling bill, S. 3711 (Domenici, R-NM), which would open previously protected waters only along part of the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas development. S. 3711 does not affect California. Differences between the House and Senate bills will need to be reconciled in a conference committee. At the State level, the Legislature adopted A.J.R. 55 on August 23, 2006, to oppose off-shore oil and gas exploration in general, and H.R. 4761 in particular.

**Opposition to H.R. 4761 or similar legislation is consistent with current Board policy in the Federal Legislative Agenda to oppose initiatives to renew off-shore drilling.**

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JF:LY:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Department of Public Works