

CALL FOR LOCAL ACTION

Respond to Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Program

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of the Interior has released a [draft Five-Year Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program](#) that includes potential lease sales off the California coast. This proposal would reopen areas off California to [new offshore oil and gas drilling](#) for the first time in decades, which can negatively impact tourism, fisheries, environmental resources, and public health of nearby communities.

While offshore leasing decisions are made at the federal level, cities and counties retain land use authority over many of the onshore components necessary to support offshore oil operations. Cities and counties can exercise their local control over land use, zoning, and permitting to regulate onshore infrastructure and land uses

REQUEST FOR LOCAL ACTION:

Cities can take local action to respond to the federal plan expanding offshore oil and gas drilling by **adopting a local ordinance** strengthening local coastal protections. Cities adopting ordinances are encouraged to take action by **summer 2026** and to coordinate with their neighboring cities and county to take similar action. Cal Cities has examples of enacted ordinances available on its [Coastal Cities website](#).

WHY CITIES SHOULD ACT:

The Draft Five-Year Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program would authorize future offshore oil and gas lease sales in federal waters off the California coast by 2027 and re-introduce offshore drilling activity after more than 40 years without new leasing. This plan would enable the development of offshore oil and gas operations that may require onshore support facilities, including pipelines, processing plants, ports, storage facilities, and transportation infrastructure. Cities have regulated onshore facilities via ordinance in the following ways:

- Regulating onshore facilities needed to support offshore oil and gas operations, including facilities, utilities, or infrastructure for any offshore oil and gas exploration, development, production, transportation, processing, or expansion activities.
- Prohibiting specified onshore uses or facilities that fall within designated zoning districts or coastal areas.
- Requiring consistency with Public Resources Code Section [30515](#), triggering a local coastal program amendment for any energy facility development.
- Invoking administrative procedures governing oversight of onshore facilities.

CONTACT: For questions, please contact your [Regional Public Affairs Manager](#).