



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C-3

For the meeting of: June 9, 2015

Date: June 1, 2015
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Mark Lovelace
Subject: Support for SB 788 (McGuire) The California Coastal Protection Act of 2015

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: SB 788, the California Coastal Protection Act of 2015 will close a loophole in current legislation and protect our coastline, Humboldt Bay, and the state's \$40 billion coastal economy from threats posed by offshore oil drilling.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support, Senator McGuire's Statement on Santa Barbara Oil Spill and SB 788 Bill Text.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature *Mark Lovelace*

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent
☐ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Bohn Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Sundberg, Lovelace, Fennell, Bohn, Bass
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: June 9, 2015

By: *Kathy Hayes*

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

June 9, 2015

Senator Mike McGuire
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 788
 The California Coastal Protection Act of 2015 (McGuire)**

Dear Senator McGuire:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to thank you for authoring SB 788, *the California Coastal Protection Act of 2015*, and to offer our board's strong support of this much-needed bill, which will help protect our coastline, fisheries and Marine Protected Areas from the risk of spills and pollution from offshore oil drilling.

In 1995, the California Legislature passed the Coastal Sanctuary Act, which banned new offshore oil and gas leases. Unfortunately, the Act contains a loophole that currently allows the State Lands Commission to grant new leases for offshore oil and gas development by using a technique called "slant drilling" from lands adjacent to tidelands. New offshore oil leases are a real possibility in California and developers are already testing the political waters, despite strong opposition from coastal communities.

SB 788 will close this loophole, protecting our coastline and Humboldt Bay from the threats posed by offshore oil drilling. It will ensure that commercial and sport fisheries, Marine Protected Areas, sensitive coastal habitats and fish and marine wildlife are not at risk from spills and pollution associated with offshore drilling.

The recent spill into the pristine waters off Santa Barbara's Refugio State Beach is a grim reminder of just how risky coastal oil development can be, and demonstrates the critical importance of taking the steps necessary to protect our coast and the state's \$40 billion coastal economy.

We thank you for your work to protect our coastal ecosystems and the livelihoods that rely on them.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

EF:kh

*Thank you, Mike
Estelle*

Hayes, Kathy

From: Goosby, Zuretti <Zuretti.Goosby@SEN.CA.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 3:56 PM
To: Lovelace, Mark
Subject: FW: McGuire's statement on Santa Barbara oil spill

From: Lindecker, Kerrie
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Lindecker, Kerrie
Subject: McGuire's statement on Santa Barbara oil spill

California State Senate

SENATOR
MIKE MCGUIRE
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



Wednesday, May 20, 2015

With news of another oil spill off Santa Barbara County's coast, McGuire calls for an end to new leases for offshore oil drilling in California

Sacramento, CA – Yesterday's oil spill in the once pristine waters off Santa Barbara County's Refugio State Beach is a grim reminder of just how risky coastal oil development can be.

Local environmental and state agencies along with emergency crews, have sprung into immediate action to limit the damage from an estimated 21,000 gallons of oil that spilled from a ruptured pipeline, draining crude oil for three hours and creating nine miles of toxic sheen in ocean waters.

Senator Mike McGuire is disturbed by the constant reminders of the dangers of coastal oil production.

"Tuesday's devastating oil spill is yet another example of the significant dangers related to coastal oil development," Senator Mike McGuire said. "Our thoughts are with the residents of Santa Barbara and all of those who are working hard on the recovery efforts."

For information on ways to help with the recovery efforts, log on to www.environmentaldefensecenter.org, or The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) has also been activated and their website has wildlife response effort information at www.owcn.org.

McGuire represents 40 percent of the California Coastline and he has been working with a broad coalition of state and local leaders, environmental organizations, fisheries experts, small business owners and coastal communities to protect California's pristine coast and our state's \$40 billion coastal economy.

SB 788 – The Coastal Protection Act – authored by Senator Mike McGuire and Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, will close the loophole in the Coastal Sanctuary Act that currently allows the State Lands Commission to grant new leases for offshore oil and gas development. New offshore oil leases are a real possibility in California and developers are already testing the political waters.

The oil slicks on the front page of this morning's newspapers are reminiscent of the images from 1969, when for 11 days, more than 4 million gallons of crude oil blew into the ocean just off of Santa Barbara's coast. Two hundred square miles of ocean and 35 miles of California coastline were oiled and thousands of animals were killed.

Senate Bill 788 would forever ban any new oil drilling off of the California Coast - protecting our environment - and it would help California's coastal economy thrive. Coastal communities contribute \$40 billion annually to the state's economy along with 500,000 jobs that working families depend on.

For more information or questions, please contact Kerrie Lindecker, Communications Coordinator, at 707-319-3654, or email her at kerrie.lindecker@sen.ca.gov.

STATE CAPITOL, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • (916) 651-4002 • WWW.SDO2.SENATE.CA.GOV

CURRENT BILL STATUS

MEASURE : S.B. No. 788

AUTHOR(S) : McGuire (Principal coauthors: Senators Jackson and Leno)
(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Hancock, Monning, and Wolk)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Levine, Mark Stone,
and Williams).

TOPIC : California Coastal Protection Act of 2015.

HOUSE LOCATION : SEN

+LAST AMENDED DATE : 05/04/2015

TYPE OF BILL :

Active
Non-Urgency
Non-Appropriations
Majority Vote Required
Non-State-Mandated Local Program
Fiscal
Non-Tax Levy

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 05/18/2015

LAST HIST. ACTION : May 18 hearing: Placed on APPR. suspense file.

COMM. LOCATION : SEN APPROPRIATIONS

TITLE : An act to repeal Section 6244 of the Public Resources
Code, relating to coastal resources.

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 788

Introduced by Senator McGuire
(Principal coauthors: Senators Jackson and Leno)
(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Hancock, Monning, and Wolk)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dodd, Levine, Mark Stone, and Williams)

February 27, 2015

An act to repeal Section 6244 of the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 788, as amended, McGuire. California Coastal Protection Act of 2015.

The California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 authorizes the State Lands Commission to enter into a lease for the extraction of oil or gas from state-owned tide and submerged lands in the California Coastal Sanctuary if the commission determines that the oil or gas deposits are being drained by means of producing wells upon adjacent federal lands and the lease is in the best interest of the state.

This bill would enact the California Coastal Protection Act of 2015, which would delete this authorization. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- P2 1 SECTION 1.
- 2 (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 3 following:
- 4 (1) California's coast is 840 miles long. California's coastal
- 5 economies contribute \$40 billion annually to the state's economy,
- 6 and nearly half a million jobs. Commercial fisheries in California
- 7 are valued at more than \$7 billion annually. Ocean dependent
- 8 tourism is valued at over \$10 billion annually. Recreational fishing
- 9 is valued at over \$2 billion annually along California's coast.
- 10 (2) The California coastal current system hosts a wide variety
- 11 of marine mammals, seabirds, sea turtles, marine fishes, and
- 12 invertebrates, including many threatened and endangered animals.
- 13 The ocean off of California's coast also supports rare, deep-water
- 14 coral habitats that provide habitat for abundant marine life.
- 15 (3) The California coastline provides habitat for many threatened
- 16 or endangered species.
- 17 (4) The coast of California is home to numerous protected areas,
- 18 including national marine sanctuaries, a national park, and a
- 19 national seashore.
- 20 (5) Outdoor coastal recreation is a crucial part of California's
- 21 business and recreation, including boating, wildlife viewing, hiking,
- beach visitation, swimming, surfing, and diving. Additionally,

22 many of California's indigenous populations rely on fisheries for
23 subsistence, business, and recreation.

24 (6) The California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 passed with
25 bipartisan support. The act prohibits any extraction of oil or gas
26 in certain state waters under a new lease, but it also provides an
27 exception that authorizes the extraction of oil or gas from
28 state-owned tide and submerged lands in certain circumstances.
29 Because of this exception, the act falls short of providing a
30 complete ban on new *leases* for offshore oil drilling *in state waters*.

31 (7) California has established a network of marine protected
32 areas. The exception for *new state leases* for offshore oil drilling
33 in the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 threatens that
34 network of marine protected areas.

35 (8) Pursuant to an agreement with the federal government,
36 California receives a portion of the royalties on oil and gas
37 produced in federal waters.

P3 1 (9) California has not issued new offshore oil ~~permits~~ *leases* for
2 over 50 years and has intentionally foregone any revenue from
3 *any new leases and the associated* offshore oil development in
4 state waters and federal waters. The Legislature, Governor, and
5 State Lands Commission have repeatedly called upon the federal
6 government to prohibit any *new* offshore oil ~~drilling~~ *development*
7 *leases* in federal waters off the California coast.

8 (10) The federal and state government, as well as the people of
9 California, have consistently expressed support for an energy policy
10 that transitions our use from fossil fuel to more renewable energy,
11 greater fuel efficiency, and conservation.

12 (11) The Governor of California, along with the governors of
13 Oregon and Washington, have repeatedly expressed their "strong
14 opposition" to any offshore oil development off of the West Coast.
15 In a *July 2014* letter to the President of the United States, they
16 wrote: "While new technology reduces the risk of a catastrophic
17 event such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, a sizeable spill
18 anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact
19 on our population, recreation, natural resources, and our ocean and
20 coastal dependent economies." They further wrote that: "Oil and
21 gas leasing may be appropriate for regions where there is state
22 support for such development and the impacts can be mitigated.
23 However, along the West Coast, our states stand ready to work
24 with the Obama Administration to help craft a comprehensive and
25 science-based national energy policy that aligns with the actions
26 we are taking to invest in energy efficiency, alternative renewable
27 energy sources, and pricing carbon."

28 (b) This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the California
29 Coastal Protection Act of 2015.

30 SEC. 2.

Section 6244 of the *Public Resources Code* is repealed.