

Argument for Measure D

Vote YES on (Measure D) to give (Santa Cruz County) voters the ultimate say on whether onshore industrial facilities for offshore oil, gas, and seabed mining will be allowed. Our ocean faces renewed threats from industrial development, and now is the moment to say "stop the drill"!

(Measure D) modifies (Measure A) passed in 1986 by 78% of (Santa Cruz) voters, which requires onshore facilities for offshore oil and gas to first be approved by voters.

(Measure D) now adds a voter requirement for onshore facilities for seabed mining, an emerging threat globally.

(Measure D) will strengthen the legal defensibility of the County's existing ordinance by expressly including coastal resource protection, climate considerations, and public health as well as including modern findings, grounded in the latest science, to protect our coastal infrastructure and local economy.

Why is this needed now?

The federal government has proposed leasing federal waters off central California to oil and gas companies as early as 2027. The (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary) protects 6,094 square miles of ocean from drilling and mineral extraction, but Congress or the federal administration can eliminate or weaken those safeguards. If that happens, areas within or just outside the Sanctuary could be leased, putting the Sanctuary at risk.

While offshore oil drilling has long threatened the central coast, seabed mining wasn't an issue in 1986, but it is now. Mining the ocean floor would devastate the deep sea ocean environment that scientists are just beginning to understand. The federal administration is now (fast-tracking) this new destructive industry elsewhere in the country and California could be next.

(Measure D) gives (Santa Cruz) a strong voice in protecting our coast and ocean economy for generations to come.

Vote Yes on (Measure D!)

s/ Mariah Roberts, Executive Director, County Park Friends
s/ Esabella Bonner, Founder/Executive Director, Black Surf Santa Cruz
s/ Kristen Brown, Executive Director, Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce
s/ Yesenia Jimenez, Conservation Program Manager, Watsonville Wetlands Watch
s/ Dan Haifley, Former Executive Director, Save Our Shores

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