

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Tiffany Martinez

Departmental Communications Officer

tiffany.martinez@santacruzcountyca.gov



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION TO DISCUSS OFFSHORE OIL
DRILLING AND DEEP-SEA MINING**

July 27, 2026 – Santa Cruz County, CA — The Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment will hold a meeting to discuss ongoing efforts to strengthen local coastal protections as the Trump Administration seeks to advance offshore oil drilling and deep-sea mining in US federal waters, including off the central California coast.

WHAT: Commission on the Environment Meeting

WHERE: Santa Cruz County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street (Basement Community Room), Santa Cruz

WHEN: Wednesday, July 29, from 5–7 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY: Zoom participation available at:

<https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1652777873>

At this meeting Save Our Shores will provide an update on the strategy to strengthen the decades-old local onshore ordinances, known as the “Blue Wall,” to improve their legal defensibility and expand their scope to address emerging offshore threats beyond oil drilling, including deep-sea mining.

This meeting comes as federal offshore leasing proposals could affect waters adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which spans more than 6,000 square miles and provides critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, including blue whales, southern sea otters, leatherback sea turtles, and coho salmon.

Santa Cruz County's 29-mile coastline also plays a vital role in the region's economy, supporting more than \$1.4 billion in annual visitor spending, 8,000 to 10,000 tourism-related jobs, and nearly \$200 million in annual surf-related recreation.

This November, Santa Cruz County voters will have the opportunity to consider a local measure related to strengthening coastal protections. Santa

Cruz County is leading a coalition of local California governments seeking to protect the state's iconic coastline from threats to the environment and coastal economies, including tourism, recreation and fisheries. To join, visit SaveMyCoast.org.

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