June 13, 2017

The Honorable Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 588 (Hertzberg) – California Marine Resources Legacy Act - OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 588 introduced by Senator Hertzberg. The Board of Supervisor’s adopted a 2017 Legislative Platform that supports the cleanup and removal of abandoned oil and gas wells.

SB 588 appears to:

- Specifically exclude drilling muds and shell mounds from the definition “offshore oil and gas platforms” and potentially, from consideration for removal, and
- Limit the Ocean Protection Council’s established criteria for making a “net environmental benefit determination” of partial removal relative to full removal of the oil and gas platforms.

Excluding the removal of drilling muds and shell mounds as well as limiting the criteria used to determine full versus partial removal is likely to result in increased risks to public health and safety.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Bob Hertzberg, Author
Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Ryan Ojakian, Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Robert Spiegel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, County Legislative Coordinator