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# Assembly California Legislature



**WILLIAM W. MONNING**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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May 27, 2009

Mr. Paul Michel, Superintendent  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Mr. Michel:

I am writing to determine whether the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has taken a position on the proposed PXP Oil Company plan to use existing oil platforms in the Channel Counties area to expand drilling in State of California oil reserves.

As I am sure you are aware, the proposed drilling plan included a non-public agreement with the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara representing a coalition of environmental organizations. The agreement sought to achieve a curtailment of all offshore drilling in fourteen years in exchange for expanded slant drilling and conveyance of certain lands to the public trust.

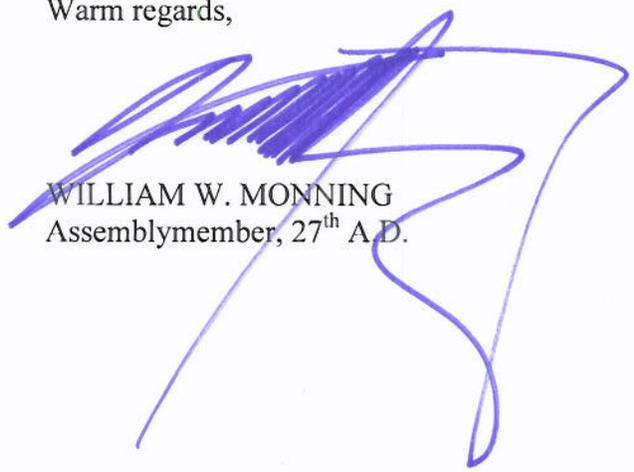
The State Lands Commission rejected the proposed agreement on a 2-1 vote when it convened on January 29, 2009. Since the rejection of the proposed agreement, Governor Schwarzenegger has included the project as part of the May Budget Revision proposal to the State Legislature identifying a potential \$100 million of revenue to the state during each year of the agreement.

I am seeking inputs from environmental and marine protection organizations in the 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and would appreciate input from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. While I realize that the proposed project falls outside of the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, I have heard from a number of groups and individuals who are concerned with the potential implications if such a project were to move forward. I have also heard from groups and individuals who favor the proposed agreement based on their belief that the agreement would result in the curtailment of offshore drilling within 14 years.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request and please convey my thanks to members of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council for your collective work to preserve and protect the Monterey Bay.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a dense, scribbled section in the upper left.

WILLIAM W. MONNING  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> A.D.