



# PRESS RELEASE

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**ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS RESPOND TO GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO  
INCLUDE TRANQUILLON RIDGE IN STATE BUDGET**  
*Groups Continue to Work on Revisions to Plan to End Oil Drilling*

Today the Environmental Defense Center, Get Oil Out! and Citizens Planning Association submitted testimony to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources, regarding the Subcommittee's consideration of the Tranquillon Ridge Project as a budget item. The environmental groups successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with PXP that would provide an end to oil drilling offshore northern Santa Barbara County.

In their statement, the groups pointed out that, while they still support their plan to end oil drilling offshore California, they do not believe that the Tranquillon Ridge project should be part of the budget negotiations because there is nothing pending before any body at the moment, given the State Lands Commission denial of the proposal last year. The groups advised the Subcommittee that they are very close to finalizing a new agreement that addresses the concerns of the State Lands Commission and several environmental organizations to assure greater enforceability, transparency and accountability, now that the "old" settlement agreement has no effect. Once the new plan is finalized, it will be made public and will hopefully be reheard by the State Lands Commission.

However, given that the Subcommittee is proceeding today with a discussion of Tranquillon Ridge, the groups submitted a statement outlining the benefits of the plan, which are to:

- Shut down four platforms that are currently drilling offshore California;
- Remove two onshore processing and support facilities;
- Prevent the use of these platforms and onshore facilities to support new or expanded drilling off our coast;
- Conveyance of approximately 4,000 acres of lands for permanent preservation;
- Full mitigation of all direct greenhouse gas emissions from the project.

The environmental groups also reminded the Subcommittee that they joined with dozens of other organizations in opposing the Governor's effort to circumvent the jurisdiction of the State Lands Committee by putting this plan in the budget discussions last spring. The groups also oppose Governor Schwarzenegger's current attempt to link the project with any particular funding source. Rather, they support existing law, which provides that moneys from oil drilling are to be deposited into the state's general fund.

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*The Environmental Defense Center protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action and works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Since 1977, EDC has empowered community based organizations to advance environmental protection. Program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open spaces and wildlife, and human and environmental health. See [www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org) for more information.*