



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2010

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RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORT FOR TRANQUILLON RIDGE PLAN TO END OFFSHORE OIL

Santa Barbara, CA-- We are very surprised and disappointed to learn that the Governor has withdrawn his support for the Tranquillon Ridge Plan, which would have ended existing oil drilling operations offshore Santa Barbara County.

The merits of the plan have not changed. The only thing that has changed, given the horrible spill in the Gulf of Mexico, is that it is all the more important that we put an end to existing oil drilling off our coast.

Let us be clear: there is no other way under the law to shut down existing platforms. It has been 40 years since Platform A spewed 3 million gallons into the ocean and onto our beaches, and yet that platform is still operating today.

Our plan, negotiated as part of a settlement agreement, would have provided the only legal and available means to put an end to existing oil drilling off our coast.

Without our plan, the platforms will continue drilling indefinitely. The longer the platforms operate, the greater the risk of an oil spill.

In terms of next steps, we have no choice but to wait and see what unfolds. We challenge those who have opposed our plan to tell us how they intend to shut down these platforms and thus reduce the threat of oil spills off our coast. Maintaining the status quo only perpetuates the existing risks.