

January 12, 2010

State Senator Mark Leno
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite #425
San Rafael, CA 94903



Dear Senator Leno,

We write to you in response to the recent budget proposal by Governor Schwarzenegger to fund California State Parks in the future with royalty proceeds from new offshore oil operations in the Santa Barbara Channel. The Marin Conservation League is strongly opposed to this proposal.

We do not support further offshore oil production on our California coasts. Moreover, even if we did support new offshore oil production, this would be a highly uncertain source of funding to meet the budgetary needs of our California State Parks. It would be dependent upon when oil production starts, the levels of production over time, plus the future whims of legislative and ballot initiatives regarding how and where such oil royalties should be spent.

We urge you not to support this budget proposal of the Governor. It is contrary to long-standing public policy to protect the environmental values our California Coastline from offshore oil development, and does not provide a certain source of funding for California State Parks.

We will continue to support the California State Parks Foundation's ballot initiative, which calls for establishing a California State Parks and Conservation Trust Fund, funded by an annual park access surcharge on vehicle registration. This is the only means we can see at the present time for stable, reliable funding for maintaining our irreplaceable legacy of parks in California.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom B. Dennis", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

President

Cc: State Assemblyman Huffman

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