



May 20, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to legislation designed to circumvent the State Lands Commission denial of the Tranquillon Oil & Gas Project**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Surfrider Foundation is opposed to any attempt to circumvent the State Lands Commission (SLC) decision making process regarding the Tranquillon Oil & Gas Project through special legislation.

On January 29, 2009, the California State Lands Commission denied the Tranquillon Oil & Gas project in a 2-1 vote. At that time the SLC attorneys, in consultation with the Attorney General's office, concluded that the agreement could not be reliably enforced. In addition, there were concerns about the Minerals Management Service (MMS) not including an end date in the federal permit.

The Surfrider Foundation continues to be concerned about the enforceability of this project at the state level and with the MMS.

The Surfrider Foundation is opposed to efforts to pass legislation to provide the Director of Finance with authority to effectively override the SLC decision and allow this project to go forward.

We strongly believe that any effort to circumvent the decisions made by the State Lands Commission undermines important public processes established by the State of California.

Sincerely,



Chad E. Nelsen  
Environmental Director  
Surfrider Foundation

cc: Thomas L. Sheehy, California Department of Finance  
Brian Baird, California Resource Agency  
Linda Kropp, Environmental Defense Center  
California State Assembly  
California State Senate