



County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors

Board Report

AGENDA DATE: July 14, 2026

TO: Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Randy Hooper, Assistant County Administrative Officer
Administration

SUBJECT: NOAA Evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program, Offshore
Oil Production Monitoring Update

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

Receive an informational update regarding the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program and direct staff to continue monitoring relevant federal policy developments in coordination with Thorn Run Partners, including the upcoming public-comment process and subsequent evaluation findings, as previously directed by the Board of Supervisors.**

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

On January 27, 2026, the Board considered a report regarding offshore oil development and potential policy actions available to the County. By consensus, the Board directed staff to monitor the issue in coordination with the County's federal advocates and provide updates to the Board as needed if there is movement on the topic. Since that direction, staff has included offshore oil development and related federal policy issues among the matters discussed with Thorn Run Partners during regular federal advocacy coordination meetings. To staff's knowledge, no project-specific proposal, permitting action, lease sale, or other concrete federal action requiring Board consideration has been identified.

On June 26, 2026, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management published a notice announcing public meetings and an opportunity for public comment as part of NOAA's evaluation of the California Coastal Management Program. The evaluation is required under Section 312 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act and assesses the extent to which California has implemented and enforced its federally approved coastal management program, addressed coastal-management needs identified in the Act, and adhered to the terms of grants, loans, and cooperative agreements funded under the Act. NOAA is seeking new stakeholder input regarding spaceport infrastructure, offshore oil production, pipeline maintenance, desalination projects, and undersea cables. The notice states that the meetings are intended to add to the input obtained through a previous public meeting held in August 2024.

Although offshore oil production is among the subjects on which NOAA is seeking input, the notice does not identify a proposed offshore oil development, lease sale, permit action, pipeline project, or other project-specific federal decision for consideration. As described in the notice, the public-comment process is part of NOAA's evaluation of California's coastal management program, rather than a proceeding on a defined offshore development proposal.

NOAA will receive public input through an in-person meeting on August 10, 2026, virtual public meetings on August 11 and 12, 2026, and written comments through August 22, 2026. NOAA will consider the information received as part of its evaluation and will publish a Federal Register notice announcing the availability of its final evaluation findings. Under Section 312, NOAA's final evaluation report must be completed within 120 days after the last public meeting held in the State being evaluated and must include written responses to written comments received during the evaluation process.

Staff shared the June 26 notice with the County's federal advocate, Greg Burns of Thorn Run Partners, for review and has requested that Thorn Run participate in the scheduled NOAA public meetings, as appropriate, and report to the County regarding any substantive matters that may warrant Board awareness or consideration. Based on staff's review of the notice, a County comment letter is not recommended at this time. The notice does not identify a pending project-specific federal action, and the Board has not directed staff to submit comments in connection with this program-level evaluation. Staff will continue to monitor the NOAA public-comment process, relevant stakeholder input, and any subsequent evaluation findings in coordination with Thorn Run Partners, and will return to the Board if a concrete federal policy, regulatory, leasing, permitting, or development action arises that may affect Del Norte County interests.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

FINANCING:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with receiving this informational update. Continued monitoring will occur through existing staff resources and the County's existing federal advocacy services agreement with Thorn Run Partners.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

NOAA

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This Board of Supervisors' adopted Strategic Plan contains the following Focus Areas and Goals.

Focus Area 1: County Staffing and Capacity (CSC)

Focus Area 2: Infrastructure and Economic Development (IED)

Focus Area 3: Law, Justice, and Homelessness (LJH)

Focus Area 4: General Governance and Budget (GGB)

This item addresses the following Goals:

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

1. PublicInspectionNoticeNOAA26

APPROVALS:

Neal Lopez, County Administrative Officer
Kylie Goughnour , Deputy Clerk of the Board

Approved - 7/7/2026
Final Approval - 7/8/2026