



## Coastal resources & environmental protection

*Offshore oil and gas producers have an excellent record of protecting the environment. The 1969 oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast created a new awareness of the need for strict oversight, protection, training and technology. Thirty years since that ecological disaster, California's offshore oil and gas industry is one of the most highly regulated and environmentally sensitive industries in the world.*

- *Since 1970, federal offshore facilities have produced more than 900 million barrels of oil and have been responsible for introducing an average of 26 barrels of oil into the waters off California each year.*
- *The oil and gas industry has developed sophisticated monitoring technologies that constantly inspect and report on drilling and production equipment, pipelines and procedures.*
- *The typical offshore platform includes more than 600 safety devices.*
- *The industry employs extensive training protocols to ensure all offshore employees are properly trained to prevent and respond to spills or threatened spills.*
- *The offshore oil and gas industry, through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service, spends close to \$4 million annually to study and monitor the marine environment. These studies indicate industry efforts to protect the marine environment have been largely successful.*
- *The offshore oil and gas industry spends more than \$11 million per year to maintain 24-hour, state-of-the-art oil spill response and prevention networks throughout the state.*
- *Changes in operations, equipment and technology on offshore platforms have significantly improved air quality. The oil and gas production industry in Santa Barbara County has reduced air emissions by 62 percent since 1990.*