



AGENDA ITEM NO.
FI

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: February 27, 2018

Date: February 21, 2018

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Mike Wilson

Subject: Adopt a resolution opposing new offshore oil drilling development and object to any new oil and gas leases off the California coast.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution and direct staff to send a certified copy of the resolution to the current Federal administration.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: Coastal waters off California have been off-limits to new oil drilling since 1969. However, our coastal communities once again face serious risk with the recent announcement of plans to open nearly all federal coastal waters to new offshore oil and gas drilling, including the entire California coast.

California is very aware of the environmental damage created by offshore drilling. In 1969, the state witnessed the devastation that Santa Barbara experienced when 3 million gallons of offshore crude oil spilled along one of the nation's most beautiful and biodiverse coastlines, killing thousands of birds, fish and marine mammals, and just three years ago, offshore oil drilling plagued Santa Barbara again when a pipeline spilled more than 100,000 gallons of crude oil onto the Refugio State Beach, leaking into the Pacific Ocean's precious ecosystem.

As of November 18, 2016 The U.S. Department of Interior's adopted 2017-2022 Five-Year outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program contained no proposed offshore drilling along the Pacific Coast. On April 28, 2017, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order called Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy which establishes a policy to encourage energy exploration and production on the OCS. The Executive Order short circuits the existing program and restarts the five-year oil and gas leasing program for the entire OCS planning area, including the Pacific OCS.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes Signature Mike Wilson

REVIEW:	Auditor _____	County Counsel _____	Personnel _____	Risk Manager _____	Other _____
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TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent

Departmental

Public Hearing

Other Time Set - 9:15 a.m. (15 minutes)

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Bohn Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Bass, Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson

Nays _____

Abstain _____

Absent _____

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

1 Dated: 2/27/18

By: [Signature]

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

A revision of the expanded Five-Year OCS Leasing Program for the years 2019-2024 is being proposed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Public comments are being solicited on the anticipated Draft Proposed Program (OPP) and are due March 9, 2018. The proposed resolution is in response to this request for comments and sets policy for Humboldt County's position regarding offshore oil and exploration locally and for the pacific coast.

We must demonstrate uniform resolve to defend our coastline and protect the health of our communities and coastal economies. We need to send a clear and united message to the current Federal administration that Californians value the well-being of our coastal community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Huffman

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of February 27, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 18-13

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING DEVELOPMENT AND
OBJECT TO ANY NEW OIL AND GAS LEASES OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST.**

WHEREAS, the coast of California is one of the treasures of the nation, whose riches include giant kelp forests, many species of marine mammals, migrating salmon and hundreds of other forms of sea life; and

WHEREAS, our county's residents and visitors enjoy our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our county's residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, reliance on coastal resources has been a foundation of Humboldt County's culture and economy for generations; and

WHEREAS, our local fishing industry wholly depends on pollution free waters to deliver delicious and nutritious seafood, including wild salmon, Dungeness crab, and shellfish to customers around the world; and

WHEREAS, the North Coast has a long history of coastal protection, its citizens taking an active role in protecting our coast against pollution; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt is submitting this Resolution in response to the request for comments on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019 through 2024 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program as now proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), FR Doc No: 2018-00083; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt opposes the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program because such action threatens the regional clean-coast economy which relies on healthy ecosystems, fisheries, and the multiple visitor-serving industries that depend on them; and

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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WHEREAS, the state of California prohibits new oil and gas leasing in state waters due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, the Counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Ventura have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, the County of Humboldt is currently updating its Local Coastal Plan and the County's opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration should be reflected therein; and

WHEREAS, BOEM's proposed drilling plans disregard California's coastal - dependent economy and the state's policies to protect it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt supports a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast, and a ban on new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. water, including off the coast of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopts this resolution and will submit this resolution and supporting comments to the Department of Interior on the Draft Proposed Program for 2019 through 2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Dated: February 27, 2018



Ryan Sundberg, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Bohn, seconded by Supervisor Bass, and the following vote:

AYES:	Supervisors	Bohn, Fennell, Sundberg, Bass, Wilson
NAYS:	Supervisors	--
ABSENT:	Supervisors	--
ABSTAIN:	Supervisors	--

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA


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RESOLUTION NO. 18-13

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be an original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



By Ryan Sharp
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Sundberg
825 5th Street
Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JAN 16 2018
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

Dear President Sundberg:

California knows all too well the environmental havoc created by offshore drilling. In 1969, we witnessed the devastation that Santa Barbara experienced when 3 million gallons of offshore crude oil spilled along one of the nation's most beautiful and biodiverse coastlines, killing thousands of birds, fish and marine mammals. Just three years ago, offshore oil drilling plagued Santa Barbara again when a pipeline spilled more than 100,000 gallons of crude oil onto the Refugio State Beach, leaking into the Pacific Ocean's ecosystem.

Our coastal communities once again face serious risk. Last week, the Trump administration announced plans to open nearly all federal coastal waters to new offshore oil and gas drilling, including the entire California coast. Our state waters have been off-limits to new oil drilling since 1969, and the last lease sale in federal waters offshore was in 1984. I ask you to join me in fighting this reckless and unnecessary plan every step of the way.

We must demonstrate uniform resolve to defend our coastline and protect the health of our communities and coastal economies. Therefore, I request your county Board of Supervisors pass a formal resolution opposing new offshore drilling development and object to any new oil and gas leases off the California coast. I am sending this same letter to your colleagues on each of California's 58 County Boards of Supervisors.

A resolution to disapprove of new offshore drilling leases will send a clear, united message to the Trump administration that Californians value the well-being of our coastal community environments and expect relentless protection. As Californians, we must stand together to ensure that our coast is not subject to new offshore oil and gas drilling projects. I look forward to working with you to protect and preserve our beloved coastline. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (415) 393-0707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

CC: All 58 County Boards of Supervisors in California

DF:se/jc

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As Members of the California congressional delegation, we write in strong opposition to the Department of the Interior's National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for 2019 to 2024 and its inclusion of lease sales in the Pacific. We urge you to immediately withdraw the DPP for 2019 to 2024.

On January 9, you announced that you would remove Florida's coasts from consideration in the 2019 to 2024 DPP. In doing so you noted that Florida's coasts "are highly reliant on tourism as an economic driver" and that you believed it was important to take into account "the local and state voice." Using that rationale, California must also be removed from the DPP, given the high level of local opposition and the reliance of California communities on tourism.

California coasts are highly reliant on tourism as an economic driver. In fact, California's ocean economy and the sector dependent on tourism and recreation are both larger than those of Florida. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2014, the ocean economy contributed \$41.9 billion to California's gross domestic product, nearly half of which came from the tourism and recreation industries. California's ocean economy is unique and so important that in 2015 the federal government did an entire study showing the importance of it not just to California, but to our nation.

California and other states also cannot afford to allow expanded offshore drilling that will threaten the vitality of these industries. In 1969, we saw the Santa Barbara oil spill spew approximately 4.2 million gallons of oil into the ocean, devastating recreation, property, the fishing industry, and wildlife. If we open the Pacific to additional leases, it is not a question of if, but when the next disaster will occur.

You noted that your decision to exclude Florida was due in part to the concerns of Florida government officials. We agree that this decision must consider "local and state voices," but this sudden exemption to Florida, without any action to address the previous opposition from the state of California, makes a mockery of the requirements of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands

Act. Last week, the governors of California, Oregon and Washington again issued a statement expressing our states' firm opposition to the expansion of oil and gas leases in the Pacific. Additionally, dozens of Members of Congress from California, Oregon, and Washington sent you a letter in August 2017 conveying the same position. Under your rationale, California and other similarly situated states must also be exempted from the Five-Year Plan. Otherwise, this appears to be a purely politically-motivated decision.

Exempting only Florida from the DPP lacks rational basis and is arbitrary and capricious. It is unlikely that there exists a legal standard that would allow you to exempt Florida but not California under the rationale you already set forth and put in writing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



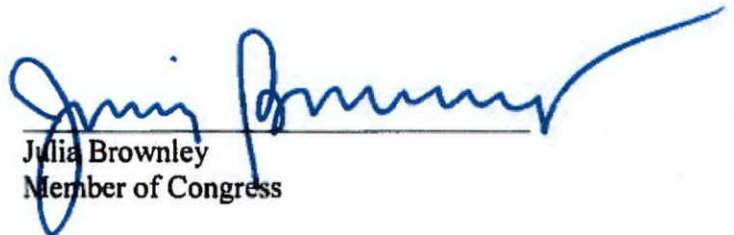
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



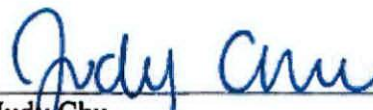
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



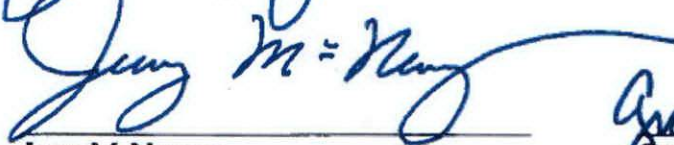
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



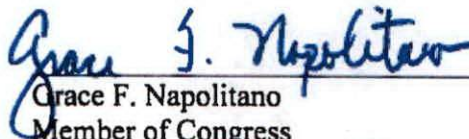
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress