

RESOLUTION NO. NS-

RESOLUTION URGING PROTECTION OF OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE
DRILLING, EXPLORATION AND FRACKING

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz and its visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

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

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

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation techniques threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration is considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior's 2017-2022 Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program adopted as of November 18, 2016 contained no proposed offshore drilling along the Pacific Coast, and;

WHEREAS, the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering an expanded Five-Year OCS Leasing Program for the years 2019-2024 and is soliciting public comments on the anticipated Draft Proposed Program (DPP), in response to which this resolution is hereby submitted, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Cruz is opposed to inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific Coast in the pending 2019-2024 DPP and any other future National Programs, and;

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as “fracking and other well stimulation,” provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California’s coast; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

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, along with several cities, 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, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the California coast will deepen the state’s dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Santa Cruz supports (1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast, and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.

The City shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary Zinke; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter Cruickshank; Governor Brown; U. S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; U.S. Representative Panetta; State Senator Monning; and State Representative Stone.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

APPROVED: _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk Administrator