Resolution No. 2018-035 N.C.S.
of the City of Petaluma, California

SUPPORTING A BAN ON OFFSHORE DRILLING,
EXPLORATION, AND FRACKING

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma 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, 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, causing catastrophic economic and environmental damage while 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, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques collectively referred to as “fracking and other well stimulation” provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California’s coast, increasing 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 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 unacceptable high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, and the State Lands Commission 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 Council of the City of Petaluma does hereby support 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 federal waters, including off the coast of California.

Under the power and authority conferred upon this Council by the Charter of said City.

REFERENCE: I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Council of the City of Petaluma at a Regular meeting on the 19th day of March 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Albertson, Barrett, Mayor Glass, Vice Mayor Healy, Kearney, King, Miller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST: City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Assistant City Attorney

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