

City of San Leandro

Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577
www.sanleandro.org



March 9, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240

RE: Opposition to New Oil and Gas Drilling and Fracking in all U.S. Waters, Including the Pacific Coast

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As Mayor of San Leandro, California, I write to you to express my strong opposition to new offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic oil and gas exploration, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal waters off the Pacific coast. I also oppose new federal oil and gas leasing in this area, including off the coast of California.

As you know, on January 4, 2018, the Trump administration proposed to vastly expand offshore drilling to lease areas off virtually every U.S. coast, including leases in the Pacific for the first time in 30 years. As a City that is situated along the San Francisco Bay, which connects directly to the Pacific coast, our community understands the inherent risks associated with offshore drilling and has a great interest in preserving the coast and associated marine environment for current and future generations.

Offshore drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation threaten the health of coastal regions and marine ecosystems. At least 10 fracking chemicals routinely used offshore in California are toxic to a broad variety of marine species such as sea otters, as well as to humans. Expanding offshore drilling and fracking off the Pacific coast also 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. Lastly, new offshore oil and gas development is incompatible with our region's tourism and fishing sectors, which depend on a healthy coastal environment.

For these reasons, I urge you to acknowledge the legitimate concerns of residents, elected officials and businesses throughout our region and reject any proposals to open U.S. waters, including the Pacific, to new offshore oil and gas exploration.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Pauline Russo Cutter
Mayor, City of San Leandro, California

Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor

City Council:

Pete Ballew
Benny Lee

Deborah Cox
Corina N. López

Ed Hernandez
Lee Thomas

