

RESOLUTION 16 - 16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid- and south-Atlantic coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas drilling utilizing risky methods, such as seismic airgun testing; and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time, and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life, causing abandonment of habitat and permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins, and fish; and

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic testing and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, the BOEM, or the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of a spill; and

WHEREAS, any offshore failure or oil spill would be disastrous to our coastal environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Cape Coral to express the City Council's official opposition to seismic air-gun testing in the Atlantic Ocean and eastern Gulf of Mexico and opposition to the approval of offshore drilling in Florida's waters in areas other than those already approved for oil leasing and exploration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Cape Coral stands opposed to seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean and eastern Gulf of Mexico until the complete evaluation of all testing options and implementation of all proper assurances for protection of marine life, and strongly encourages all elected officials at the county, state and federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to expand offshore drilling past the areas already approved for preleasing, leasing and oil production activities and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of energy.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL AT ITS REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION THIS 8th DAY OF February, 2016.


MARNI L. SAWICKI, MAYOR

VOTE OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS:

SAWICKI	<u>Aye</u>	LEON	<u>Aye</u>
BURCH	<u>Aye</u>	ERBRICK	<u>Aye</u>
CARIOSCIA	<u>Aye</u>	WILLIAMS	<u>Aye</u>
STOUT	<u>Aye</u>	CODEN	<u>Aye</u>

ATTESTED TO AND FILED IN MY OFFICE THIS 22nd DAY OF February,
2016.

Rebecca Van Deutekom
REBECCA VAN DEUTEKOM,
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dolores D. Menendez
DOLORES D. MENENDEZ
CITY ATTORNEY
res/Oppose Seismic Blasting and Offshore Drilling