RESOLUTION NO. 17.071

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH CALLING ON THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION TO PROTECT OUR COAST BY BANNING NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING, FRACKING AND OTHER WELL STIMULATION IN FEDERAL AND STATE WATERS OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST

WHEREAS, the City of Laguna Beach values ocean waters and coastline, which provide habitat to an array of wildlife including marine mammals, birds and fish; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laguna Beach coastline is part of the nations’ first scientifically based network of marine protected areas along the California coastline, which was created to help ensure that the natural resources, marine ecosystem functions, and marine natural heritage of the State are protected for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, California residents and visitors enjoy the State’s ocean and coast for recreation, exploration, relaxation, tourism; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach residents and approximately six million annual visitors enjoy our ocean, beaches, and resources, for recreation, exploration, and relaxation; and

WHEREAS, coastal dependent tourism is a part of the local economy in the communities of the Southern California coast, as well as other coastal areas in California and could be impacted by lifting of the drilling moratorium; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling off the Pacific Coast could put these coastal resources at risk of oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, prior oil spills have caused environmental and economic damage at various locations along the west coast; and

WHEREAS, as recently as May 2015, California experienced an oil spill during which a pipeline ruptured near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County. The spill released crude oil into the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, there has been no new offshore oil and gas leases in California since the 1969 blowout of a well in Federal waters, offshore Santa Barbara County, that spilled large amounts of crude oil into the ocean and onto the beaches; and
WHEREAS, beginning in 1921, the California State Legislature enacted laws that withdrew certain offshore areas from oil and gas leasing, and by 1989 the State’s offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium was in place; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 1331 et seq.) requires that preparation of a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program that sets a five-year schedule of lease sales implemented by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management within the U.S. Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the principles of Section 18 and the resulting, regionally-tailored leasing strategy, the current exclusion of the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf from new oil and gas development is consistent with the long-standing interest of Pacific Coast States, as framed in the 2006 Agreement on Ocean Health adopted by the governors of California, Washington, and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been introduced (H.R. 2242 Keep it in the ground act 2017), which provides long-term protection from future offshore oil drilling in specified California waters; and

WHEREAS, the new federal administration is proposing offshore drilling to the fossil fuel industry, opening the door to more offshore leasing, drilling and fracking that could increase the probability of oil spills. This action also promotes a stronger dependence on fossil fuels, which goes against actions taken by the City and the State of California to promote a greener, more sustainable lifestyle through the utilization of alternative energy sources that promote cleaner air and protect natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council’s 2017 State and Federal Legislative Platform, concerning land use, indicates an opposition to legislation that imposes regional, State, or Federal growth, development, or land use planning standards within the City.

WHEREAS, the City Council joins Santa Barbara, Berkeley, and other California Cities in call on the federal administration to protect our coast by banning new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation in Federal and State waters off the California Coast.
NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES, that the City of Laguna Beach supports in State and Federal waters, in the Pacific Ocean, along the United States, a ban on new drilling, fracking, and related techniques.

ADOPTED this 7th day of November, 2017.

Toni Iseman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisette Chel-Walker, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  )
) ss.
COUNTY OF ORANGE  )

I, LISETTE CHEL-WALKER, City Clerk of the City of Laguna Beach, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 17.071 was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of said City held on November 7, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:  COUNCILMEMBER(S): Dieterow, Whalen, Zur Schmiede, Boyd, Iseman
NOES:  COUNCILMEMBER(S): None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER(S): None

Lisette Chel-Walker, City Clerk