

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 3209-16

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN TESTING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Punta Gorda endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, residents have an expectation of a quality of life and demonstrate a concern for our environment in the City of Punta Gorda; and

WHEREAS, seismic air-gun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast and Eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic air-gun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals and fish; and

WHEREAS, the seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air almost as loud as explosives every 1-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end, these loud air-gun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas; and

WHEREAS, at shorter distances, air-guns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins and fish; and

WHEREAS, the City of Punta Gorda is located on the Eastern Coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the environmental and economic vitality of communities on the Gulf of Mexico affects the economic vitality of Florida and all of its cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA opposes seismic air-gun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local environments and economies along the Atlantic Coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico because we cannot continue to put our ocean environment, beaches, marines resources and local economies at risk;

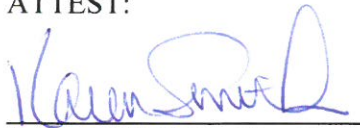
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Obama.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Punta Gorda City Council.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Florida, this 3rd day of February 2016.


RACHEL KEESLING, Mayor

ATTEST:



KAREN SMITH, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DAVID M. LEVIN, City Attorney