

RESOLUTION NO. 178-11

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA
PROTECTING OUR COASTAL RESOURCES FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING AND FRACKING**

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata values our ocean waters and coast which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife including marine mammals, birds and fish that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, our City's residents depend on the thousands of visitors who enjoy recreational activities on California's ocean and beaches for tourism and local economic support; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt Bay is a major port for commercial fishing, recreational boating and cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling off the Pacific coast puts these coastal resources at risk of oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 a well failure off the southern California coast fouled the ocean and beaches causing catastrophic damage to the region and sparking the beginning of the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata opposes an expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation because of the threat to our coast, wildlife and climate; and

WHEREAS, there have been no offshore oil and gas leases in California since the 1969 disaster; and

WHEREAS, the current exclusion of the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf from new oil and gas development is consistent with the long-standing interests of Pacific Coast States as framed in the 2006 Agreement on Ocean Health adopted by the Governors of California, Washington and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as "fracking and other well stimulation," provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California's coast; and

WHEREAS, fracking and related techniques, where water and chemicals are injected under high pressure to crack rock formations and free up petroleum products, are linked to water and air pollution, health concerns and harm to marine wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the State of California prohibits new leasing in state waters because of the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment and economy of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission and cities, including Los Angeles, have called for no new federal offshore leases along the California Pacific Coast,

and several municipalities have called for limits to onshore fracking, including Marin County, Alameda County, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, Butte County, and the City of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, offshore fracking and related techniques threaten our coast, wildlife and public health, and protecting the environment and the health and safety of the public is of paramount concern; and

WHEREAS, the marine environment is capable of generating electricity from tidal, wave and wind energy systems which reduce carbon and impacts to marine life compared to oil and gas development and which are in use globally; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation deepen our dependence on fossil fuels and undermine the state's efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and rapidly moving toward renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump's America First Offshore Energy Executive Order could open the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic Oceans and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to new drilling, fracking and other well stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills, increased greenhouse gases, dependence on fossil fuels and impacts of climate change and which could delay the movement toward greater reliance on renewable energy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Arcata supports in state and federal waters in the Pacific Ocean along the United States:

- (1) a ban on new drilling, fracking, and related techniques,
- (2) a phase-out of all oil and gas extraction of the California Coast, and
- (3) a framework for responsible renewable energy development.

This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

DATED: September 6, 2017

ATTEST:

APPROVED:


City Clerk, City of Arcata


Mayor, City of Arcata

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 178-11 passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, State of California, held on the 6th day of September, 2017, by the following vote:

- AYES: **ORNELAS, PEREIRA, PITINO, WATSON**
- NOES: **NONE**
- ABSENT: **WINKLER**
- ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**


City Clerk, City of Arcata