

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 19-7172**

2
3 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HERMOSA BEACH,**
4 **CALIFORNIA, TO PROTECT THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA FROM**
5 **OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, AND**
6 **OPPOSE PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 13795 TITLED**
7 **“IMPLEMENTING AN AMERICA-FIRST OFFSHORE ENERGY**
8 **STRATEGY,” WHICH ESTABLISHES A POLICY TO ENCOURAGE**
9 **ENERGY EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION ON THE OUTER**
10 **CONTINENTAL SHELF**

11 **WHEREAS,** the City of Hermosa Beach and its visitors enjoy California’s beaches and the
12 Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local
13 economy; and,

14 **WHEREAS,** the City of Hermosa Beach’s residents value our state’s ocean and coastal waters,
15 which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that
16 depend on a healthy and clean environment; and,

17 **WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Interior’s 2017-2022 National Outer Continental Shelf
18 (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program adopted as of November 18, 2016 contained no new proposed
19 offshore oil and gas drilling or leases along the Pacific Coast; and;

20 **WHEREAS,** on April 28, 2017, the President of the United States issued Executive Order
21 13795 titled “Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy,” which establishes a policy to
22 encourage energy exploration and production on the OCS, and directed the U.S. Department of the
23 Interior to develop a new National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024 to replace the
24 2017-2022 program; and

25 **WHEREAS,** the purpose of the Executive Order is to facilitate offshore oil and gas
26 development in federal waters and its basis is that oil and gas development ushers in economic growth
27 and job creation and bolsters national security; and

28 **WHEREAS,** on January 4, 2018, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management (BOEM) published a 2019-2024 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed
Program (DPP) that would replace the 2017-2022 Program and potentially expand offshore oil and gas
leasing to new areas which have been largely off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific
Coast and the U.S. Arctic; and;

1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Hermosa Beach is opposed to inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts
2 in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific Coast in the pending revised 2019-2024 Draft Proposed
3 Program and any other future National Programs, and;

4 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Interior has failed to comply with the National
5 Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the Outer Continental
6 Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), and relevant local land use provisions in considering said Draft Proposed
7 Program (DPP), and further, has failed to conduct and heed the duly-required consultations with
8 affected governors, local governments, tribes, and other stakeholders as required under existing law;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific Coast puts these
11 coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and
12 other damage; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara resulting from offshore
14 oil drilling operations fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental
15 damage; and,

16 **WHEREAS**, in May 2015 a pipeline transporting oil sourced from offshore oil platforms
17 ruptured near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County and spilled oil into the Pacific Ocean with
18 oil and tar balls reaching as far south as Orange County, including Hermosa Beach, damaging wildlife,
19 closing beaches, and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, Contrary to the Executive Order, California and State Commissions continue to
21 pioneer clean, renewable energy, recognizing that instead of prioritizing new oil and gas development,
22 the Nation can thrive by championing renewable energy, which creates, jobs, bolsters the economy,
23 and protects the coastline, resources, and marine wildlife from a catastrophic oil spill; and

24 **WHEREAS**, California has spent decades laying a foundation for the green economy and
25 renewable energy, including establishing targets to increase retail sales of renewable electricity to 50
26 percent by 2030, and doubling the energy efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas end uses by
27 2030; and

28 **WHEREAS**, California leads the nation in reducing carbon pollution and recently enacted
legislation requiring statewide greenhouse gas emissions to be 40 percent below the 1990 level by
2030; and

1 **WHEREAS**, opening new areas off the Pacific coast to offshore drilling will deepen the state’s
2 dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse
3 gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr’s Executive Order B-30-15 acknowledges the
5 threat of climate change to the health and well-being of humans and natural resources, highlights
6 California’s efforts to achieve significant emission reductions by 2050, and directs State government
7 to implement Safeguarding California, California’s climate adaptation plan; and

8 **WHEREAS**, shifting away from fossil fuel dependency and increasing the State’s renewable
9 energy portfolio is a key strategy to fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

10 **WHEREAS**, action to combat climate change works in concert with economic growth, and as
11 California has shown, renewable energy creates more jobs per megawatt of power installed, per unit of
12 energy produced, and per dollar of investment compared to energy production from fossil fuels; and

13 **WHEREAS**, California is a founding member of the International Alliance to Combat Ocean
14 Acidification, which brings governmental and affiliate members together to identify, coordinate, and
15 expand meaningful and timely actions to combat ocean acidification and limit other climate change-
16 driven changes to the world’s oceans, and the Alliance highlights the urgency of reducing greenhouse
17 emissions and other causes of ocean acidification as well as implementing actions to adapt to and raise
18 awareness of climate change-driven changes to the ocean; and

19 **WHEREAS**, California has made significant social and financial investments to create the
20 nation’s first science-based network of marine protected areas to protect marine life and habitats for
21 current and future generations, and covering 16 percent of state waters, California’s network safeguards
22 ecosystems and economic activities that rely on a healthy ocean—including tourism and commercial
23 fishing—and supports the state’s thriving \$44 billion ocean economy; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy Executive Order
25 requires the Secretary of Commerce to review a 2016 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
26 Administration guidance document that assesses the effects of anthropogenic sound on marine
27 mammal hearing for consistency with the Order’s policy of encouraging oil and gas development, and
28 rescind or revise this guidance if appropriate; and

WHEREAS, sound, and marine mammals, know no political boundaries—activities occurring
beyond California’s three-mile boundary in federal waters can influence and impact protected marine
mammal species that use State waters to feed, breed, and migrate, and this Order may undermine

1 federal and state protections and expose marine mammals to injurious noise levels that could have
2 population-level impacts; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the City of Hermosa Beach rejects the premise that encouraging energy
4 exploration and production on the OCS is necessary to maintain the Nation's position as a global energy
5 leader and foster energy security and resilience for the benefit of the American people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of
7 California since 1984; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, the state of California prohibited new oil and gas leasing in state waters due to
9 the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate and Assembly,
11 the California State Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, Fish and Game Commission, along with
12 over 70 California cities and counties, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases
13 in the Pacific Ocean; and,

14 **WHEREAS**, the City of Hermosa Beach adopted PLAN Hermosa in 2017, the City's first
15 general plan update since 1979 that presents a 25-year vision for a Sustainable and Low Carbon Future
16 for Hermosa Beach; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2018, the City Council of the City of Hermosa Beach approved a
18 letter of support for State Assembly Bill 1775 and Senate Bill 834, thereafter signed into law on
19 September 9, 2018 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr, to prohibit the State Lands Commission and
20 local trustees from entering into new lease agreements for exploration or production of oil or gas in
21 state regulated coastal waters, up to three miles from the coastline.

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH,
23 CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

24 That the City of Hermosa Beach:

- 25 1. Opposes new leases for oil and gas activities off the coast of California and in all other U.S.
26 waters.
- 27 2. Supports a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and related techniques in federal
28 and state waters off the California coast.
3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Secretary of the
Interior David Bernhardt, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter

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Cruickshank, Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris;
U.S. Representative Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, State Assemblymember Al
Muratsuchi and any other interested parties.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and
adoption of this Resolution, shall cause the original of the same to be entered among the original
resolutions of the City Council, and shall make a minute of the passage and adoption thereof in
the minutes of the City Council meeting at which the same is passed and adopted.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23rd day of April, 2019.

PRESIDENT of the City Council and **MAYOR** of the City of Hermosa Beach, California

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Clerk

City Attorney