

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHULA VISTA  
OPPOSING NEW OR EXPANDED OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASES IN THE  
PACIFIC OCEAN AND SUPPORTING RELATED MEASURES TO PROHIBIT THE  
DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE OCEAN

WHEREAS, the City values our State's ocean waters and coasts, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife which depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, the City's residents and visitors enjoy our ocean, beaches, mountains and abundance of diverse resources for recreation, exploration, and relaxation; and

WHEREAS, our City's economy is reliant on a healthy ocean for our residents, visitors, and maritime professionals; and

WHEREAS, the City has a long history of caring for our coastal waters, bay, and environment by adopting City policies and practicing environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the City is a member of the Port of San Diego, which includes two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, 22 public parks and hundreds of businesses around San Diego Bay; and

WHEREAS, the City is home to over 500 acres of coastal property along the Pacific coast, which includes a marina, bayfront parks, and the Living Coast Discovery Center, a part of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the City's bayfront is the subject of the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan, which contemplates recreational and residential development, along with the establishment of ecological buffers to protect wildlife habitat, species and other coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence confirming that intense sound produced by human generated noise such as acoustic testing used in oil and gas exploration negatively impacts marine mammals, fish, squid, and crab; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, a well failure off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters with an estimated 100,000 barrels of crude oil and caused catastrophic environmental damage, helping launch the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, with bipartisan support, President Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act on January 2nd, delivered a call to make "the 1970's a historic period when, by conscious choice (we) transform our land into what we want it to become" in his State of the Union Address, and ended the year with the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency an independent agency to regulate the environment; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling presents a clear and ever-present danger to the health and safety of residents, businesses and economies, with the threat of an oil spill potentially wreaking havoc on ecosystems, human health, and economic activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 BP Deep Water Horizon disaster spilled an estimated 4.9 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico and shores of the Gulf Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the coast north of Santa Barbara with an estimated 3,400 barrels of crude oil, damaging wildlife and coastal recreation; and

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

WHEREAS, in December 2016, President Obama signed an executive order that banned any new oil and gas drilling off the coast of California under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

WHEREAS, On April 28, 2017, President Trump issued an Executive Order called Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, which establishes a policy to encourage energy exploration and production on the outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and restarts the 2017-2022 five year lease program potentially opening up Arctic waters and millions of coastal acres off U.S. shores to oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well-stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills, increased greenhouse gas emissions, dependence on fossil fuels, and a delay in the movement toward greater reliance on renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the City's residents and visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and,

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

WHEREAS, significant efforts to maintain the quality of our coastal waters amidst multiplicative impacts from sewage, industrial uses, and climatic impacts are being enacted by City; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed an expansion of offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984 waters due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior's 2017-2022 Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program adopted as of November 18, 2016 contained no proposed offshore drilling along the Pacific Coast, and;

WHEREAS, the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering an expanded Five-Year OCS Leasing Program for the years 2019-2024, in response to which this resolution is hereby submitted, and;

WHEREAS, the City is opposed to inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific Coast in the pending 2019-2024 DPP and any other future National Programs, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, the Coastal Commission, the Fish and Game Commission, along with a growing number of cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, opening new areas off California's coast to offshore drilling will deepen the state's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Chula Vista hereby supports, with respect to all State and Federal waters in the Pacific Ocean bordering the United States: 1) a ban on new drilling, fracking, and related techniques, 2) a prohibition on new or expanded oil and gas leases; 3) a phase-out of all oil and gas extraction, and 3) a framework for responsible renewable energy development.

The City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of Interior.

Presented by

Approved as to form by

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Gary Halbert  
City Manager

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Glen R. Googins  
City Attorney