

Resolution 2018-02

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF LONG BEACH'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, in Washington State hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and abundant fish and wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Washington State's ocean wealth stems from fishing, aquaculture, tourism and recreation which benefits from a healthy ocean and coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of Washington State's coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss and storm surge and sea level rise impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Pacific coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and,

WHEREAS, the current Administration has expressed interest in opening the Pacific Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales and orcas which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like rockfish, crab, and oysters; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach recognizes that our communities, businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners, and visitors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LONG BEACH THAT:

SECTION 1. The City of Long Beach finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and therefore opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of Washington State.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council.

SECTION 3. The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, U. S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell; U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler; State Senator Dean Takko; State Representatives Brian Blake & Jim Walsh; and any other interested parties.

Passed this 5th day of February, 2018 by the City Council for the City of Long Beach, Washington.

Ayes _____ Nays _____ Absent _____

Jerry Phillips, Mayor