

RESOLUTION NO. 19-062 C.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTEREY

PROTECTING OUR COAST FROM OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION

WHEREAS, the City of Monterey and its 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 city's 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, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health, and climate; and,

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration is considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to 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; 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 National OCS Leasing Program for the years 2019-2024 in response to which this resolution is hereby submitted, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Monterey is opposed to inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific Coast in the pending 2019-2024 leasing program and any other future National Programs, 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 other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

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

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the California Attorney General, the majority of California's Members of Congress, the California State Senate, the California State Lands Commission, the California Ocean Protection Council, and the California Fish and Game Commission, along with several 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 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Monterey (1) supports a ban on new oil and gas activities in federal and state waters off the California coast and (2) opposes new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Cruickshank; Governor Newsom; U. S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; Congressman Panetta; State Senator Monning; and Assembly Member Stone.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MONTEREY this 7th day of May, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:	4	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Albert, Smith, Williamson, Roberson
NOES:	0	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	1	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Haffa
ABSTAIN:	0	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Mayor of said City

City Clerk thereof

