CITY OF OJAI

RESOLUTION NO. 26-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING THE CALIFORNIA COAST AND PUBLIC LANDS FROM OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION

WHEREAS, under Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for approving a schedule of OCS oil and gas lease sales for a 5-year period; and

WHEREAS, the approved schedule is called the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for developing the National OCS Program, advising the Secretary, and administering the National OCS Program if/once adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior has proposed adding a schedule of 34 lease sales in three of the four OCS regions, with 3 of the proposed leases off the coast of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai and its visitors enjoy California's beaches, the Pacific Ocean, and public wildlands 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, and wild public lands and parks, which provide habitat to wildlife, including the California condor, deer, elk, bears, and more, that all depend on a health and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, offshore and onshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific coast and in California public lands puts these coastal and natural resources, and the communities, including the City of Ojai, and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage which threaten the economic viability and environment of such communities and industries; and

WHEREAS, expanding oil and gas drilling and exploration offshore and onshore threatens coastal and rural stakeholders, wildlife, human health, and climate; and

WHEREAS, massive oil spills in 1969 and 2015 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage along the Southern California coast, including within Ventura County; and

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

WHEREAS, significant portions of public lands intersect with biologically diverse landscapes, vital water sources, cultural and recreational lands, and densely populated communities; 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 state of California has prohibited new fracking activities, implemented a safety setback, and is committed to phasing out oil and gas drilling onshore in California no later than 2045 due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the environment, climate, and public health; and

WHEREAS, opening new areas off the Pacific coast and in public lands to 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; and

WHEREAS, the three new oil and gas leases currently being proposed in Southern California threaten the economic viability and environment for communities located on or near the Southern California coast, including the City of Ojai; and

WHEREAS, the public comment period on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 1st Analysis and Proposal that includes these proposed new offshore oil leases will end on Jan. 23, 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND ORDER, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Ojai (1) opposes new leases for oil and gas activities in public lands and off the coast of California.

SECTION 2. Prior to the end of the public comment period on January 23, 2026, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to:

a) Regulations.gov (Docket ID: BOEM-2025-0483); and
b) The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) with the title "Comments for the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program." and addressed to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD) 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216 and
c) Senator Alex Padilla; and
d) Senator Adam Schiff; and
e) Representative Salud Carbajal; and
f) Representative Julia Brownley; and
g) and any other relevant federal, state, or local government official.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 13th day of January 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: **Lang, Rule, Whitman, Mang**
NOES:
ABSENT: **Gilman**
ABSTAIN

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA

Rachel Lang, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bethany A. Burgess, City Attorney

I, Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Ojai do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, City of Ojai Resolution No. 26-1, was passed and adopted by the City of Ojai City Council at its regular meeting on January 13, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Ojai on January 13, 2026.

Weston Montgomery, Chief Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF OJAI INCORPORATED AUGUST 5, 1921 STATE OF CALIFORNIA