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RESOLUTION NO. 26-001

RESOLUTION OF THE PACIFIC GROVE CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND DEEP SEABED MINING

WHEREAS, the ocean covers roughly 70% of the Earth's surface, produces half the oxygen we breathe through its plant life, serves as a major highway for global trade, provides food, absorbs excess carbon from climate change, and plays a critical role in shaping weather patterns; and

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

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

WHEREAS, offshore drilling carries countless negative effects including air pollution from toxic emissions known to cause asthma, lung cancer, and other diseases; the constant threat of oil spills that harm wildlife and their habitats; and damage to the fishing and tourism industries, which are vital to California's coastal economy; and

WHEREAS, past oil spill disasters, such as the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, the massive oil spills in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara, the Refugio Spill in 2015 off the coast of Santa Barbara, and the massive oil spill off Huntington Beach in October 2021 have caused catastrophic impacts to human life, wildlife, coastal ecosystems, and local economies; and

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

WHEREAS, an analysis by Oceana found that protecting all unleased federal waters from offshore drilling in the United States could prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of taking every car in the nation off the road for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025 President Trump signed the Unleashing American Energy executive order, which encourages energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters, including on the Outer Continental Shelf, and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2025, President Trump signed the Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources executive order to permit deep seabed mining, which would have significant negative impacts on our marine ecosystems, fisheries, and local coastal economies; and

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WHEREAS, California's marine sanctuaries—including the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and others along the coast—protect unique ecosystems and cultural resources, but significant areas of the Pacific remain vulnerable to offshore oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the threat of future leasing proposals persists in the absence of a permanent nationwide prohibition on new offshore drilling; and

WHEREAS, protecting California's coastlines from the impacts of oil and gas development is essential to safeguarding the environment, public health, Tribal cultural resources, climate resilience, and coastal economies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE that the City Council of the City of Pacific Grove

a) Opposes any new or expanded offshore oil and gas drilling and deep seabed mining leases and activities, and
b) Urges federal and state decision-makers to permanently prohibit offshore drilling and deep seabed mining in all U.S. waters, including the Pacific Ocean off California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE that the City of Pacific Grove will participate in the Local Government Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coordination Program, in order to work collaboratively with other jurisdictions to protect California's coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems from offshore drilling.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE this 21nd day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Smith, Councilmembers Garfield, McDonnell, Poduri, Rau, and Walkingstick.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Amelio.

APPROVED:

Signed by:
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NICK SMITH, Mayor

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ATTEST:
DATED: 1/23/2026

DocuSigned by:
Sandra Kandell
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SANDRA KANDELL, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by:
Alex J. Lorca, Esq.
FBE53BA816BC469...

ALEX J. LORCA, City Attorney