RESOLUTION NO. 26-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL LEASES IN FEDERAL WATERS

WHEREAS, the Isla Vista Community Services District cherishes our community's oceans, coastal waters, and beaches for their many qualities, including as world-class places for recreation, thriving habitat for ocean life and wildlife, and sites of education, commerce, and culture from time immemorial; 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 unacceptable risk from oil spills and other environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, in January and February of 1969, Union Oil's Platform A in the Santa Barbara Channel suffered a catastrophic blowout that released more than three million gallons of crude oil, killing thousands of marine animals and polluting the coastline from Isla Vista to Ventura and the Channel Islands, with lasting environmental and economic consequences that shaped our region's fierce opposition to offshore oil development; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2015, the Las Flores Pipeline System burst near Refugio State Beach, spilling over 120,000 gallons of crude oil in the worst coastal oil spill in 25 years, polluting beaches and coastal waters for miles around – including Isla Vista's, where a massive oil slick came ashore on May 23, 2015, causing irreparable damage to our environment and ecosystems, closing beaches to the public, and damaging local fisheries, marine life, and coastal tourism; and

WHEREAS, these devastating incidents demonstrate that offshore oil operations pose an ongoing threat to Isla Vista's coastal environment, public health, safety, and economy; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984, and the state of California has 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, on November 20, 2025, the Secretary of the Interior announced a first analysis and proposal for the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which includes six lease sales along the Pacific Coast with leases set to begin in 2027, with a 60-day comment period from November 24, 2025, to January 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, opening new areas of the Pacific coast to oil and gas drilling would deepen dependence on fossil fuels, undermine California's climate goals as specified in Executive Order B-55-18, threaten coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, and human health, and condemn current and future Isla Vistans to the consequences of a worsening climate catastrophe;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors joins with a broad coalition of local governments, state leaders, scientists, and residents in strongly urging the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to exclude all areas offshore California from new oil lease sales and gas activity.

Section 2. The Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors opposes any new offshore oil and gas leases in federal waters off the California coast and calls on all federal agencies with permitting authority to reject proposals for new offshore oil development.

Section 3. The General Manager is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to BOEM during the comment period, and to California's federal delegation, the Governor of California, and other appropriate state and federal officials.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Isla Vista Community Services District at a regularly scheduled meeting held on the 13th day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ATTEST:

_____

JONATHAN A. ABBOUD, General Manager
ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

By: _____

SPENCER BRANDT, Board President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By:

_____
ALYSSA DASKAS, District General Counsel

I, _____, General Manager of the Isla Vista Community Services, Santa Barbara County, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Isla Vista Community Services District on the date and by the vote indicated herein.