Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

Resolution No.: 26-018
Adopt a Resolution opposing new and existing)
offshore oil and gas drilling, and 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, 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 Refugio Spill in 2015 off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, have caused catastrophic impacts to human life, wildlife, coastal ecosystems, and local economies; 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

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 Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, that the Board:

1. Opposes any new or expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, and deep seabed mining, and 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; and,
2. The County of Monterey 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 on this 6th day of January 2026, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Root Askew and Daniels
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting on January 6, 2026.

Dated: January 21, 2026
File ID: PAR 25-022
Agenda Item No.: 18

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

Margarita Hernandez, Deputy