Meeting Date: 12/18/25
Item #: 8.I.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-136

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEASIDE

OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA IN THE FEDERAL FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the economy of the City of Seaside depends heavily on a healthy coastal and marine environment, supporting industries such as tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and related small businesses; and

WHEREAS, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and an attractive coastal environment are vital to maintaining property values, sustaining local businesses, and ensuring the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and drilling carry inherent risks, including oil spills, leaks, habitat destruction, and pollution, which could cause significant, long-term harm to our coastal economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting used in offshore oil and gas exploration poses a significant threat to marine life, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish stocks, by producing loud, repetitive underwater noise that can disrupt communication, navigation, reproduction, and foraging behavior; and

WHEREAS, the ecological damage caused by seismic testing undermines the health of marine ecosystems and directly threatens industries such as commercial and recreational fishing that depend on robust marine populations; and

WHEREAS, even the perception of environmental risk associated with offshore drilling can negatively impact tourism, investment, and business development in coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, one of the nation's most significant protected marine ecosystems, directly supports Seaside's economy, environment, and quality of life, and California law and longstanding public policy oppose new offshore oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seaside's coastal-dependent economy benefits from tourism, hospitality, outdoor recreation, coastal research, and the presence of California State University, Monterey Bay, all of which rely on a clean, healthy, and resilient marine environment; and

WHEREAS, even exploratory drilling activities occurring outside Sanctuary boundaries may still threaten marine species, coastal waters, and the economic well-being of Seaside and other Central Coast communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seaside has adopted policies supporting environmental sustainability, climate resiliency, and the protection of coastal and marine resources, and recognizes that expanded offshore drilling would conflict with these community values and goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Seaside, State of California, that:

1. The City of Seaside formally opposes the inclusion of any new offshore oil and gas leasing along the California coast in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

2. The City of Seaside urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to continue protecting the Pacific region by excluding new offshore oil and gas leasing areas, including those adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, from the final program.

3. The City of Seaside calls on its federal representatives to oppose any expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling and to support clean-energy investments, coastal protection, and policies that safeguard the Pacific coastline and the communities that depend on it.

4. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM); U.S. Senator Alex Padilla; U.S. Senator Adam Schiff; U.S. Representative Jimmy Panetta; State Assemblymember Dawn Addis; State Senator John Laird; the California Coastal Commission; and other appropriate federal and state officials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Seaside duly held on the 18th day of December 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	5	COUNCIL MEMBERS: Burks, Garcia-Arrazola, Miller, Oglesby, Pacheco
NOES:	0	COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
ABSENT:	0	COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
ABSTAIN:	0	COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

APPROVED:

Ian N. Oglesby, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dominique L. Davis, City Clerk

APPROVED TO FORM:

Sheri L. Damon, City Attorney