RESOLUTION NO. 256-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING ALONG THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata is located along California's North Coast, a region of extraordinary ecological, cultural, and economic value, including sensitive marine habitats, fisheries, coastal wetlands, and public beaches; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling poses significant risks to marine ecosystems, coastal water quality, public health, and the regional economy, including commercial fishing, aquaculture, tourism, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, oil spills, seismic testing, and routine drilling operations can cause long-term and irreversible damage to marine life, including whales, seabirds, fish populations, and kelp forests; and

WHEREAS, the North Coast is particularly vulnerable due to its rugged shoreline, strong currents, and limited emergency response infrastructure, making effective spill response extremely difficult; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, climate action, renewable energy, and the protection of natural resources for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, expansion of offshore oil and gas development is inconsistent with California's climate goals, the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan, and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Tribes, coastal communities, fishermen, scientists, and local governments throughout Northern California have expressed strong opposition to offshore drilling and seismic testing; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to advocate for the protection of their residents, environment, and economic well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Arcata hereby **strongly opposes any new or expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, exploration, or seismic testing along the Northern California coastline**, including waters adjacent to Humboldt County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Arcata urges the President of the United States, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, members of Congress, and all relevant state and federal agencies to permanently prohibit offshore oil and gas drilling along California's coast; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Arcata affirms its support for policies and investments that advance clean energy, climate resilience, and sustainable coastal economies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of California, California Coastal Commission, local state and federal legislative representatives, Humboldt County officials, and relevant federal agencies.

This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

DATED: January 22, 2026

ATTEST: **APPROVED**:

City Clerk, City of Arcata Mayor, City of Arcata

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of **Resolution No. 256-34**, passed and adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, Humboldt County, State of California, held on the 22nd day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: **WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, STILLMAN**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSENT: **MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER**

ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**

City Clerk, City of Arcata