

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-7885

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF IMPERIAL BEACH, CALIFORNIA, STATING OPPOSITION TO ANY OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF CALIFORNIA AND SPECIFICALLY NEAR IMPERIAL BEACH.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the city of Imperial Beach and its visitors enjoy all of California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, specifically the coastline of and near the City of Imperial Beach, all of which support our local economy; and,

WHEREAS, Imperial Beach residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; 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 risk from oil spills and other damage; and,

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling complicates existing efforts to maintain clean and healthy coastal ecosystems and the tourism and recreation jobs and revenue that depend on them; and,

WHEREAS, the aesthetic impact of oil drilling platforms and other supporting infrastructure have a direct impact on the value of coastal properties as well as the desirability of tourists and visitors to come to Imperial Beach; and,

WHEREAS, significant efforts to maintain the quality of our coastal waters amidst multiplicative impacts from sewage, industrial uses, and climatic impacts are being enacted by city officials, local organizations, and citizens of Imperial Beach; and,

WHEREAS, the oil industry's negligence of oil platform safety standards has resulted in a long legacy of catastrophic economic and environmental damage to coastal waters and communities, including a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms in Refugio State Park burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife populations and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration is considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and,

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior's 2017-2022 Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program adopted as of November 18, 2016 contained no proposed offshore drilling along the Pacific Coast; and,

WHEREAS, the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering an expanded Five-Year OCS Leasing Program for the years 2019-2024 and is soliciting public comments on the anticipated Draft Proposed Program (DPP), in response to which this resolution is hereby submitted; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Imperial Beach is opposed to inclusion of any offshore drilling tracts in any OCS Planning Area on the Pacific Coast in the pending 2019-2024 DPP and any other future National Programs; and,

WHEREAS, the state of California 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, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, the Fish and Game Commission, along with a growing number of cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean; and,

WHEREAS, opening new areas off California's coast to offshore drilling will deepen the state's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Imperial Beach that the City of Imperial Beach opposes any new offshore oil and gas leasing, drilling, and related exploratory activity in federal and state waters off the Pacific Coast, specifically near the coastline of Imperial Beach.

Be it further resolved that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary Zinke; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter Cruickshank; Governor Jerry Brown; U. S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; U.S. Representative Juan Vargas; State Senator Ben Hueso; and State Representative Todd Gloria; and any other appropriate parties.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Imperial Beach at its meeting held on the 17th day of January 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:

SERGE DEDINA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HALD, MMC
CITY CLERK