



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Meeting Date: November 14, 2017
Date: November 7, 2017
To: The Board of Supervisors
From: John Leopold, First District Supervisor
Subject: RESOLUTION TO PROTECT COAST FROM DRILLING AND FRACKING

Members of the Board:

Our County has a long history of protecting our coast and the Monterey Bay from oil drilling. Through a collaborative strategy with Save Our Shores (SOS), County Supervisors placed a measure on the ballot in the 1980's to prohibit onshore oil facilities from being built. This successful strategy was replicated in coastal communities throughout the state. Our continued advocacy helped lead to the creation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which set strict limits on oil drilling. Most recently our county became the first in the state to ban fracking.

While all these efforts have ensured that new oil drilling off the coast has been approved since 1984, the new presidential administration has placed these protections in doubt. The Trump administration's "America's First Offshore Energy Strategy" has initiated a review that could threaten the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. They are seeking to assess what oil, gas, and other mineral resources lie beneath the Sanctuary floor and are looking for the legal justifications to exploit these resources for fossil fuel companies.

Our state has seen the dangers of offshore oil drilling first hand with the existing platforms, pipelines, and oil tankers. In 2015, over 140,000 gallons of crude oil spilled at Refugio Beach in Santa Barbara. In 2007, the Cosco Busan oil spill in the bay between San Francisco and Oakland closed over 50 beaches, killed over 6,000 birds and cost more than \$70 million to clean up.

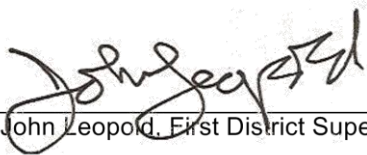
Too many of the fragile ecosystems that exist along our coast are at risk. We have been a leader in protecting our marine sanctuary and developing policies that preserve

the natural features of our coast. And, we recognize that the economy of our area is directly linked to the health of the bay.

For all these reasons, Californians are pushing back against this administration's attempt to sell out the coast. Environmental groups, fishing organizations and local businesses are ramping up grassroots opposition and legal teams. SOS and Oceana have been leading an effort for coastal communities in California to call again for a ban on offshore oil wells and fracking in state and federal waters. We need to declare once again that there should not be any new oil leases off the California coast, and we should ban fracking in ocean waters.

Therefore, I recommend the adoption of the attached resolution, and direct the Clerk of the Board to distribute copies of this Resolution to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior; the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director; Governor Brown; U.S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; U.S. Representative Panetta; State Senator Monning; and Assemblymembers Stone and Caballero.

Submitted by:



John Leopold, First District Supervisor 11/7/2017

Attachments:

Resolution to Protect Oceans

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of
duly seconded by
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN AND COAST
FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING, EXPLORATION AND FRACKING

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz and its visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our Santa Cruz County 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 put 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, fracking and other well stimulation techniques threaten coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health, and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage, and

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

WHEREAS, the Trump 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, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as "fracking and other well stimulation," provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California's coast; and

RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN AND COAST

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the state of California prohibits 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, along with several cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the California coast 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, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors supports (1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast, and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this ____ day of November, 2017, by the following vote:


AYES: SUPERVISOR
NOES: SUPERVISOR
ABSENT: SUPERVISOR

JOHN LEOPOLD, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of said Board

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RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN AND COAST

Approved as to form:



County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION:

U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director
Governor Brown
U.S. Senator Feinstein
U.S. Senator Harris
U.S. Representative Panetta
State Senator Monning
State Representative Stone
State Representative Caballero