



**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

TYPE OF ITEM: Council Business

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1

DATE: February 19, 2019

TO: City Council

FROM: Stephen Fischer
City Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution Opposing Offshore Oil Drilling and Related Onshore Development, Fracking, and Related Techniques. (5/10/10)

CONTACT: Stephen Fischer, City Attorney
Stephen.Fischer@oxnard.org, (805) 385-7483

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council adopt a resolution opposing new or expansion of existing offshore oil and gas leases off the coast of Ventura County and related onshore development, fracking, and related techniques; and supporting a phase-out of oil and gas extraction and a framework to develop new responsible renewable energy projects.

BACKGROUND

At the City Council meeting held on January 8, 2019, Mayor Pro Tem Ramirez requested, and a majority of the Council concurred, that a resolution opposing offshore oil drilling be considered on a future Council agenda. The attached resolution was drafted based on similar actions taken by other public agencies in response to Executive Order 13795 issued by President Trump on April 28, 2017 ("Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy") and reflects the relevant strategic priorities of the Council and the recently adopted 2019 Legislative Program. If adopted by the City Council, the resolution will be provided to the City's lobbyists, appropriate public officials, and otherwise distributed to communicate the adopted position.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This agenda item supports the Infrastructure and Natural Resources strategy. The purpose of the Infrastructure and Natural Resources strategy is to establish, preserve and improve our infrastructure and natural resources through effective planning, prioritization, and efficient use of

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available funding. This item supports the following goals and objectives:

Goal 5. Ensure orderly development and long-range conservation and management of our natural resources and coastal assets.

Objective 5b. Protect ocean and waterways.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Prepared by Stephen Fischer, City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS:

Oxnard Reso re Offshore Drilling.021919

CORRESPONDENCE- Offshore Drilling 8.2.18

CORRESPONDENCE- Offshore Drilling 1.8.19

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD OPPOSING NEW OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASES OFF THE COAST OF VENTURA COUNTY AND RELATED ONSHORE DEVELOPMENT, FRACKING, AND RELATED TECHNIQUES; AND SUPPORTING A PHASE-OUT OF OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION AND A FRAMEWORK TO DEVELOP NEW RESPONSIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard values our state's ocean waters and coasts, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard's residents and visitors enjoy our ocean, beaches, and abundance of diverse resources for recreation, exploration, and relaxation; and tourism and recreation comprise a large part of the City's economy; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling presents a clear and ever-present danger to the health and safety of residents, businesses and economies, with the threat of an oil spill potentially wreaking havoc on ecosystems, on human health, and economic activities; and

WHEREAS, fracking and related techniques, where water and chemicals are injected under high pressure to crack rock formations and free up petroleum products, are linked to water and air pollution, health concerns, and harm to marine wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, a well failure off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic environmental damage, helping launch the modern environmental movement, and in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the coast, damaging wildlife and coastal recreation; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13795 titled "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy" which could open the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans to oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills, increased greenhouse gas emissions, dependence on fossil fuels, and a delay in the movement toward greater reliance on renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission and cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have called for no new federal offshore leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several public agencies have called for limits to fracking including Marin County, Alameda County, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, and Butte County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard's 2019 Legislative Program has made energy and environment sustainability a legislative priority, including opposing legislation that promotes or expands off shore coastal drilling compromising the environmental integrity of the ocean and coastal communities, and supporting legislation that assists with the cleanup of contaminated soil and polluted water including underground fuel tanks, surfaces water, groundwater, and coastal areas, and that requires the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and well stimulation treatments; and

WHEREAS, the Oxnard City Council's Strategic Priorities include an Infrastructure and Natural Resources Strategy, one goal of which is to ensure orderly development and long-range conservation and management of our natural resources and coastal assets with the objective of protecting the ocean and waterways.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Oxnard resolves that the City of Oxnard hereby supports in state and federal waters in the Pacific Ocean along the United States, 1) a ban on new offshore drilling, fracking, and related techniques; 2) a ban on new onshore development that would support offshore oil and gas development; 3) a phase-out of oil and gas extraction; and 4) a framework to develop new responsible renewable energy projects.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 19th day of February, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Tim Flynn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Ascencion, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen M. Fischer, City Attorney



Ascencion, Michelle <michelle.ascencion@oxnard.org>

Resolution Protecting Our Coast From Offshore Drilling and Fracking

Jeannie Pollak

Thu, Aug 2, 2018 at 7:59 PM

To: cityclerk@oxnard.org

Dear City Clerk Michelle Ascencion,

I am writing to urge you to pass a resolution in opposition to offshore drilling and fracking. On Jan. 4, 2018 the Trump administration proposed to vastly expand offshore drilling to lease areas off every U.S. coast, including in the Pacific for the first time in 30 years. At the same time, the government has proposed to roll back offshore-drilling safety rules. And on April 28 President Trump issued an executive order attempting to revoke permanent Obama-era protections for sensitive Arctic and Atlantic waters. The federal government also recently lifted a moratorium on fracking off the Pacific coast.

Offshore drilling and fracking are dangerous, dirty practices that pollute our water and air, drench our beaches in oil, wreck our climate, and are fundamentally at odds with our coastal economy and way of life. They have no place in our ocean. That's why I'm asking you and the city council to take a stand and proactively address this problem with a resolution.

Faced with an administration that's promised oil companies unrestricted access to oil and gas reserves under America's oceans, it's up to local communities to guard our coastline against dangerous offshore drilling and the worst impacts of climate change.

Therefore I urge you to introduce and pass a resolution calling for 1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the Pacific coast, and 2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including the Pacific.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jeannie Pollak



January 8, 2019

Oxnard City Councilmembers
300 West 3rd Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Re: Support for a City of Oxnard Resolution Opposing to Offshore Oil Drilling

Dear Oxnard City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Environmental Defense Center (“EDC”), I write to you in support of a City of Oxnard resolution declaring the Council’s opposition to offshore oil drilling. EDC is a non-profit organization that protects and enhances the environment through education, advocacy, and legal action. Since 1977 we have represented local, state, and national groups concerned about the impacts caused by offshore oil and gas development. We primarily work within Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties – areas that have already absorbed more than our share of offshore oil development and borne the ill effects that result from such development, including the infamous 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill and the recent 2015 Refugio Oil Spill.

City of Oxnard’s coastline boasts a strong coastal economy including recreation, commercial fishing, and tourism, and is near the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary. The Santa Barbara Channel is one of the rarest bio-regions in the world, due to its location in the confluence of two major ocean currents which result in the highest biodiversity in the mainland United States. EDC supports your efforts to protect these coastal resources.

Many cities and counties throughout California have voiced their opposition to offshore oil and gas development and have passed resolutions to support: 1) a ban on new offshore drilling, fracking, and related techniques; 2) a ban on new onshore development that would support offshore oil and gas development; 3) a phase-out of oil and gas extraction; and 4) a framework to develop new responsible renewable energy projects. EDC applauds these efforts and supports the Oxnard City Council in supporting a similar resolution.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the precious marine and coastal resources of the City of Oxnard and the surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Linda Krop, Chief Counsel