

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

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:
Duly seconded by Supervisor:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW AND EXISTING
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

WHEREAS, the ocean covers roughly 70% of the Earth's surface; produces half the oxygen we breathe through its plant life; serves as a major highway for global trade; provides food; absorbs excess carbon from climate change; and plays a critical role in shaping weather patterns; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling carries countless negative effects including air pollution from toxic emissions known to cause asthma, lung cancer and other diseases, the threat of oil spills which would do harm to wildlife and their habitats and damage the fishing and tourism industries, the latter of which generates \$4.3 billion in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster killed 11 people, spilled over 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, devastated coastal economies, caused nearly \$1 billion in seafood industry losses, tarred shorelines from Texas to Florida, and had deadly impacts on dolphins, whales, sea turtles, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, an analysis by Oceana found that protecting all unleased federal waters from offshore drilling in the United States could prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions - the equivalent of taking every car in the nation off the road for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated on September 18, 1992, with a statutory ban on offshore oil development under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and in November 2008 it was expanded to include the Davidson Seamount Management Zone—75 miles west of San Simeon—where nutrient-rich upwelling around the 7,500-foot-tall seamount supports diverse marine life, including corals, sponges, plants, and abundant fish; and

WHEREAS, despite widespread opposition in Pacific Coast states, the Trump administration's 2018 five-year offshore leasing plan proposed opening

Resolution _____

the entire West Coast to new drilling and, although courts blocked the proposal, the threat persists due to the absence of a permanent federal ban; and

WHEREAS, President Biden finalized the 2024–2029 Five-Year Plan and, in January 2025, used Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently withdraw 625 million acres of federal waters from leasing—including areas off the East and West Coasts, Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and parts of the Arctic—an action the Trump Administration immediately attempted to revoke despite lacking clear authority under the Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2025, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced plans to develop a new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Program, starting with an April 30 Request for Information and a 45-day public comment period ending June 16, 2025, to gather input on offshore drilling; and

WHEREAS the area between the southern boundary of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the northern boundary of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary remains unprotected, including Morro Bay, Cayucos, Montana De Oro State Park, and Morro Rock, which is sacred to the Chumash and Salinan peoples; and

WHEREAS, support from Santa Cruz County will help oppose this and any future efforts toward offshore drilling in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz opposes any new and existing offshore oil and gas drilling and will submit comments to that effect in response to BOEM's OCS Five Year Plan RFI.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 20____, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Felipe Hernandez
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Resolution _____

ATTEST: _____

Juliette Rezzato
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

Signed by:

Jason M. Heath 6/4/2025

2338E053FF38435

Jason M. Heath (06/03/2025, 25-1910)
Office of the County Counsel

Certificate Of Completion

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County Counsel

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