

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION BY THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN THE MATTER
OF OPPOSITION TO NEW OFFSHORE OIL LEASING**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, protecting the valuable coastal environment from oil and gas development has been a priority in Santa Barbara County since the devastating oil spill of 1969 that led to the birth of the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, the California coastline with its fragile coastal environments and biodiversity, its important fish stocks and its National Marine Sanctuaries, is a national treasure and a valuable state resource, and generates, together with a vibrant tourist industry, nearly five billion dollars in state and local taxes each year, and is the heart of the State's \$43 billion ocean economy; and

WHEREAS, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 created a comprehensive statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits, in perpetuity, future oil and gas leasing in State water with very limited exceptions, and adds leases to the sanctuary as they are quitclaimed to the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 former President George W. Bush lifted the Presidential moratorium on new federal offshore oil and gas leasing and Congress did not renew the Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS, the expiration of these moratoria endangers much of the California coastline, and specifically impacts the coastal areas of Santa Barbara County by potentially allowing new federal offshore oil development in our County; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, acting in President Bush's final days in office, on January 16, 2009, proposed opening up 130 million acres off of California's coast to drilling for oil and natural gas through the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015; and

WHEREAS, additional offshore oil leasing and production would degrade the quality of our air and water and adversely impact our marine resources; and

WHEREAS, the County, in response to AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, is developing a comprehensive Climate Action Strategy with an emphasis on developing renewable and clean-energy sources in order to enhance our air and water quality and reduce global warming; and

WHEREAS, the County has formed a Sustainability and Conservation Team charged with developing a Sustainability Action Plan for County Operations to lead the way in sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, AB 32, SB 375 and SB 97 requires the County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions countywide and to this end has just approved its first wind energy project and is currently pursuing other opportunities for clean energy production, including solar, within the County; and

WHEREAS, the County understands the importance of transitioning from fossil fuel to clean energy production and use in order to reduce greenhouse gases, halt climate change and move into an energy economy that makes us energy independent; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior is holding a hearing on April 16, 2009 in San Francisco on the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015 and this hearing provides the opportunity for the County of Santa Barbara to comment on the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does the following:

1. The Board of Supervisors supports the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which generally prohibits new oil and gas leasing in State waters, asks that the Department of the Interior not issue any new leases of the coast of California as part of the current OCS Leasing Program, and respectfully requests that the Congress and President of the United States to reinstate the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratoria as soon as possible.
2. The Board of Supervisors directs the County's Executive Officer to transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Governor of California, to the California Resources Secretary, to the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority leader of the United States House of Representatives, to the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to the members of our local federal legislative delegation, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the California State Assembly, to the California State Senate President Pro Tem and Minority Leader, to the members of our local State legislative delegation, and to the members of the California State Lands Commission.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 7th day of April, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Chair, Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:

MICHAEL F. BROWN

CLERK OF THE BOARD

By _____

Deputy Clerk

Approved as to Form:

DENNIS A. MARSHALL

COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____

Deputy County Counsel