

**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
SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 151
(BOXER AND FEINSTEIN),
WHICH PROHIBITS NEW OIL AND GAS LEASING
IN FEDERAL WATERS OFF CALIFORNIA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein have introduced S.151 to prohibit new oil and gas leasing in federal waters off California; and

WHEREAS, On February 5, 2007 the bipartisan California State Lands Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution supporting S. 151; and

WHEREAS, California's 1,100 mile coastline, with its beautiful beaches, wild cliffs, abundant fish stocks and fragile environment is a national treasure and a valuable state resource, which is at the heart of a tourist industry that generates 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 citizens of Santa Barbara County have long opposed new oil and gas drilling off their coastline and support protecting the fragile and valuable coastal environment over development of the relatively small amounts of oil and gas offshore California; and

WHEREAS, California initiated protection of its coast from oil and gas development when the California Legislature in 1955 and 1963, prohibited oil and gas leasing in the State waters off Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and portions of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties; and

WHEREAS, The California State Lands Commission has not issued any offshore oil and gas lease for new areas since the 1969 spill from a well in Federal waters off Santa Barbara that released over three million gallons of crude oil, coating Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature continued the State's efforts to restrict oil and gas development in its own waters by enacting the California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, which codified the Commission's earlier administrative prohibition of new offshore leases and created a statutory statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits future oil and gas leasing in all State coastal waters, from Mexico to the Oregon border, in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has protected California coastline from expanded offshore drilling for more than twenty years, renewing this protection in the form of a legislative moratorium contained in the annual appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the steady opposition to new oil and gas leasing off California, various proposals have been made in the last five years to end the federal moratorium or to take steps, such as oil and gas inventories, that are intended to lead to new leasing; and

WHEREAS, S.151, recently introduced by Senator's Boxer and Feinstein would permanently ban new oil and gas leasing in federal waters, consistent with the state's own prohibition of new leasing in state waters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, That it supports S.151 and the prohibition it proposes for new oil and gas leases in federal waters off California and urges Congress to adopt this measure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States and the Federal government be encouraged to explore options to increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as incentives to improve energy efficiency, requirements to improve automobile fuel efficiency, provide funding for research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, and fully funding energy conservation and efficiency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the County's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Governor of California, 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 and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

PASSES AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 15th day of May 2007 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CHAIR Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____