



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Board of Supervisors
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: 5/15/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Board Member(s) Supervisor Janet Wolf, 2nd District
Supervisor Salud Carbajal, 1st District
Contact Info: Mary O’Gorman, 568.2191
Jeremy Tittle, 568-2186

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 151 (Prohibition of new oil and gas leasing in federal waters off California)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors adopt a Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 151, which prohibits new oil and gas leasing in federal waters off California.

Summary Text:

On January 4, 2007 Senators Boxer and Feinstein introduced Senate Bill 151 which would permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing in Federal waters off the coast of the State of California. The motion before the Board is to adopt a resolution in support of this bill. The Legislative Program Committee took no position on this bill at its April 16, 2007 meeting.

Background:

Senate Bill 151 would enact a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing in Federal waters off the state of California similar to the State of California law that prohibits new leasing in the State’s Tidelands (shoreline to 3 miles seaward) except under limited circumstances. Oil and gas leasing has been prohibited in State waters off the Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and portions of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Humboldt and Mendocino counties since 1955 and 1963 respectively. Further, the California State Lands Commission (“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. The Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 151 on February 5, 2007.

Since 1982 Congress has included language in the Interior Appropriations bill that prevents Department of Interior funding from being used for leasing, pre-leasing, and related activities in Federal waters off of California, the Pacific Northwest, Florida and the entire U.S. East Coast. In 1990 President George H.W. Bush signed an executive memorandum placing a ten-year moratorium on new leasing on the OCS. In 1998, this moratorium was renewed by President Bill Clinton and extended until 2012. President George W. Bush endorsed the moratorium in his 2007 budget. Senate Bill 151 makes the moratorium permanent. In addition to members of California's Congressional delegation, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has been supportive of implementing a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing off of the coast of California.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: Senate Bill 151 has no direct or explicit effect on oil and gas leasing in State Tidelands, which extends from the shoreline to 3 miles seaward in California so, consequently, it would have no direct or explicit effect on current proposed oil and gas development off shore Santa Barbara County. The County likely would not experience any loss of revenue-sharing dollars in the short term because current law limits that sharing to existing leases, explicitly excluding applicability to new leases.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

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FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board will provide the County Executive Office with a certified copy of the resolution. Per the attached resolution, the County Executive Office will transmit copies of the resolution to the specified individuals cited within the resolution.

Attachments:

Resolution by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Supporting Senate Bill 151 (Boxer and Feinstein), which Prohibits New Oil and Gas Leasing in Federal Waters Off California

Authored by:

Mary O' Gorman

Jeremy Tittle

cc: