



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: 1st District Supervisor
2nd District Supervisor
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: April 7, 2009
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 60 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board 2nd District Supervisor Janet Wolf, 568-2191
Member(s) 1st District Supervisor Salud Carbajal, 568-2186
Contact Info: Karin Quimby, Executive Field Representative: 568-2191
Jeremy Tittle, Executive Staff Assistant: 568-2186

SUBJECT: Resolution opposing new offshore oil leasing and supporting the reestablishment of federal moratoria on new leasing.

County Counsel Concurrence

N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Consider adopting a resolution opposing new offshore oil leasing as part of the Department of Interior Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program for 2010-2015 and supporting the reestablishment of federal moratoria on new leasing.

Summary Text:

In 2008 former President George W. Bush lifted the Presidential moratorium on new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of California and Congress did not renew the Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing off our coast. The Congressional moratorium had been in place since 1981 and had been renewed annually as part of the appropriations process. The Presidential moratorium was enacted by former President George H.W. Bush in 1991 and renewed by President Clinton in 1997. 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. This is evidenced by the fact that on January 16, 2009 the Department of Interior proposed opening up 130 million acres off of California's coast to oil and gas leasing through the OCS Oil and

Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015. The California Coastal Sanctuary Act, passed in 1994, placed a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing in State waters, with very limited exceptions, which remains in effect.

During the time that offshore oil and gas development has occurred off our coast, we have consistently experienced the effects of these activities. Most notably, the devastating 1969 oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara illustrated the negative environmental impacts of offshore oil development and inspired the federal ban. Potential new leasing would have an adverse effect on our local economy through negative impacts to our tourism and fishing industries. Moreover, studies show that it could take up to fifteen years for new leasing to produce additional oil and gas and that such action would have little to no impact on reducing gas prices. With new statewide climate change policies, most notably AB 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act, and with the adoption of Santa Barbara County's Climate Change Guiding Principles, the County has a direct role in limiting the expansion of industries that produce additional greenhouse gases.

On April 16, 2009 the Department of the Interior will hold a hearing in San Francisco on the Draft Proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015. In response to the comment period on this leasing program, we would like the County of Santa Barbara to submit a resolution opposing new offshore oil and gas leasing to the Secretary of the Interior, along with other federal and state leaders and agencies, in advance of this hearing. In the Fall of 2008, the Cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta passed similar resolutions opposing new oil and gas leasing off our coast and supporting the reestablishment of the federal moratoria.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Special Instructions:

That the County's Executive Officer 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.

Attachments:

Draft Resolution In Opposition to New Offshore Oil Leasing

Authored by:

Karin Quimby & Jeremy Tittle