



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
3rd District Supervisor
Department No.: 011 – Board of Supervisors
For Agenda Of: January 30, 2018
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board Member(s) 1st District Supervisor Das Williams
3rd District Supervisor Joan Hartmann
Contact Info: Darcel Elliott, 805-568-2186
Jefferson Litten, 805-568-2192
SUBJECT: Resolution opposing new offshore oil leases in federal waters off of the California Coast

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider adopting a resolution opposing new offshore oil leasing off the coast of California as proposed in the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and referenced in Federal Register Volume 83, Number 5 (Monday, January 8, 2018) Notices, Pages 829-834, FR Doc No: 2018-00083.
- b) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), finding that the project is an organizational or administrative activity of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

Summary Text: Coastal recreation, fishing, and especially tourism are essential components of the local economy in Santa Barbara County. According to the California Employment Development Department, as represented in *UCSB's 2017 Santa Barbara County Economic Forecast*, the "Leisure and Hospitality" sector - driven in large part by Santa Barbara County's coastal attractions - was the

second largest sector in total employment and the fastest growing sector of employment in 2016. Statewide, the coastal “tourism and recreation” sector, as calculated by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports 368,000 jobs, generates \$17.6 billion in GDP, and \$8.7 billion in wages.

In Santa Barbara County, both the 1969 oil spill - the third largest oil spill in U.S. waters - and the 2015 oil pipeline rupture off of the Gaviota Coast demonstrated the catastrophic damage that oil extraction can inflict on the local economy, fisheries, and the environment of coastal counties.

Both the California public and California lawmakers have long recognized the value of protecting the State’s coastal economy and protecting local fisheries and coastlines from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas exploration. A Field/IGS (Institute of Governmental Studies) poll in 2016 found 90 percent of Californians believe that protecting the coastline is important and a 2017 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found support for drilling in California at an all-time low of 25 percent. In 1994, the California Legislature made findings in Assembly Bill 2444 that offshore oil and gas production in certain areas of state waters poses an unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment. In 2017, the California Senate adopted three resolutions (Resolutions 35, 44, and 51), which support the current federal prohibition on new oil or gas drilling in federal waters offshore California, oppose attempts to modify prohibition, and defend the National Marine Sanctuaries of the United States.

In January of this year, the Department of Interior, through BOEM, released the Draft Proposed Plan (DPP) for the 2019-2024 offshore Oil and Gas Leasing program which would make 90 percent of the Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS) - including the coastal waters off of the coast of Santa Barbara - open to oil and gas exploration. The comment period for the DPP is open through March 9, 2018.

In response to the comment period on the DPP, the County of Santa Barbara shall consider sending the attached resolution opposing new offshore oil leases off of the California Coast to the Secretary of the Interior, along with other federal and state leaders and agencies. The Cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, as well as the County of Ventura, have already passed similar resolutions.

Background:

On January 4, 2018, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the DPP for the 2019-2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The DPP includes 47 potential offshore lease sales including 6 new lease sales off of the coast of California. There have been no new lease sales in the Pacific Region (which includes Northern California, Central California, Southern California and Washington / Oregon) since 1984.

The Department of Interior also announced its decision to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Programmatic EIS) and initiate a formal scoping process.

On January 9, 2018, Secretary Zinke announced that after meeting with Florida Governor Rick Scott, that federal waters off the coast of Florida would be exempted from any expansion of offshore oil exploration as was originally proposed in the DPP.

The Department of Interior, through BOEM, will be hosting only one public meeting about the DPP from 3-7 pm on February 8, 2018 in Sacramento at:

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria
828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

The public comment period on the DPP and the Programmatic EIS will close on March 9th 2018.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Legal Positions: N/A

FTEs: N/A

Special Instructions:

That the County transmit copies of this resolution to: President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Michael R. Pence; Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke; Governor Edmund “Jerry” Brown; U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein; U.S. Senator Kamala Harris; Congressman Salud Carbajal; State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson; State Assemblymember Monique Limón; Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham; Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate Addison Mitchell “Mitch” McConnell Jr.; Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate Charles “Chuck” Schumer; Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul D. Ryan; Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; Chairs and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources Rob Bishop and Raúl Grijalva; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Renewable Energy Specialist Jean Thurston; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Pacific Regional Director Joan Barminski; California State Senate President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader Kevin de León and Patricia Bates; Speaker and Minority Leader of the California State Assembly Anthony Rendon and Brian Dahle; California Resources Secretary John Laird; The California State Lands Commission

Attachments:

- (1) Draft Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara opposing new offshore oil leases in federal waters off of the California Coast.
- (2) Transmittal letter to accompany resolution to the list of officials designated in special instructions above.

Authored by:

Darcel Elliott & Jefferson Litten