

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2018

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

WHEREAS, the City of Pacifica values our ocean waters and coastline, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife including marine mammals, birds and fish that depend on a healthy and clean ocean environment; and

WHEREAS, the City depends on thousands of visitors who enjoy the ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific coast put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation techniques threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has proposed to dramatically expand offshore oil and gas leasing in all US oceans, including to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as "fracking and other well stimulation," provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California's coast; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the State of California prohibits new oil and gas leasing in state waters due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the Attorney General, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, along with several cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the California coast will deepen the state's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Interior develops and implements a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program that determines the size, timing and location of lease sales for the Outer Continental Shelf; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Pacifica opposes an expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling because of the threat to our coast, wildlife, climate and coastal economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Pacifica hereby adopts a resolution opposing any new offshore oil and gas drilling off the California Coast.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting held on March 26, 2018 by the following vote:

AYES, Councilmembers: Martin, O'Neill, Digre, Vaterlaus, Keener

NOES, Councilmembers: None

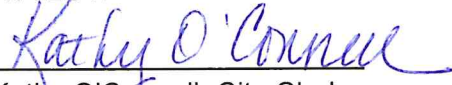
ABSTAIN, Councilmembers: None

ABSENT, Councilmembers: None



John Keener, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathy O'Connell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Michelle Marchetta Kenyon
City Attorney