



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council **DATE:** March 5, 2018

FROM: Matthew Bronson, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Matthew Bronson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution in Opposition to Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

RECOMMENDATION

Consider approving a Resolution opposing the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program and the expansion of offshore oil drilling off the coast of California.

BACKGROUND

At the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting, several members of the public representing the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation addressed the Council and requested the Council consider sending a letter or adopting a resolution formally opposing the draft proposed five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program from the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The speakers provided a document with potential text for such a letter or resolution, which informed the development of the draft resolution opposing this program for the Council's consideration (Attachment 1). Similar resolutions or letters have been approved in San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Goleta, and other communities.

On January 4, 2018, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2019-2024 which proposes to make over 90 percent of the total OCS acreage and more than 98 percent of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas available to consider for future exploration and development. By comparison, the current program puts 94 percent of the OCS off limits. In addition, the program proposes the largest number of lease sales in U.S. history.

On January 8, 2018, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a notice of the availability of, and request for comments on, the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2019-2024 Program or Program). The BOEM also announced its decision to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the 2019-2024 Program (Programmatic EIS) and the initiation of the formal scoping process. Comments must be received by March 9, 2018.

If approved by the Council, the Resolution will be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to meet the March 9th deadline for receiving comments on the Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Taking action to adopt a resolution in opposition of the Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program would not result in a direct fiscal impact to the City.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council has the following alternatives to consider:

1. Consider approving a Resolution opposing the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program and the expansion of offshore oil drilling off the coast of California; or
2. Provide direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act. A copy of the meeting agenda and this staff report were sent to representatives of the local chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 18-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH, CALIFORNIA IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM FOR 2019 – 2024 (FR DOC NO: 2018-00083, COMMENT DEADLINE MARCH 9, 2018)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California, hereby submits this resolution in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program (DPP) for 2019 through 2024 as proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as referenced in Federal Register Volume 83, Number 5 (Monday, January 8, 2018) Notices, Pages 829-834, FR Doc No: 2018-00083; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grover Beach values our State's ocean water and coasts, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grover Beach's residents and visitors enjoy our ocean, beaches, mountains and abundance of diverse resources for recreation, exploration, and relaxation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grover Beach has a long history of caring for our coastal waters, bay, and environment by adopting City policies and practicing environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence confirming that intense sound produced by human generated noise such as acoustic testing used in oil and gas exploration negatively impacts marine mammals, fish, squid, and crab; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, a well failure off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters with an estimated 100,000 barrels of crude oil and caused catastrophic environmental damage, helping launch the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, with bipartisan support, President Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act on January 2nd, delivered a call to make "the 1970s a historic period when, by conscious choice (we) transform our land into what we want it to become" in his State of the Union Address, and ended the year with the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, an independent agency to regulate the environment; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling presents a clear and ever-present danger to the health and safety of residents, businesses, and economies, with the threat of an oil spill potentially wreaking havoc on ecosystems, human health, and economic activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 BP Deep Water Horizon disaster spilled an estimated 4.9 million barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico and shores of the Gulf Coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the coast north of Santa Barbara with an estimated 3,400 barrels of crude oil, damaging wildlife and coastal recreation; and

WHEREAS, there have been no new offshore oil and gas leases in California since the 1969 disaster; and

WHEREAS, in December 2016, President Obama signed an executive order that banned any new oil and gas drilling off the coast of California under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2017, President Trump issued an Executive Order called, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy", which establishes a policy to encourage energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and restarts the 2017-2022 five-year lease program potentially opening up Arctic waters and millions of coastal acres off U.S. shores to oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills, increased greenhouse gas emissions, dependence on fossil fuels, and a delay in the movement toward greater reliance on renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, and numerous cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, have called for no new federal offshore leases in the Pacific Ocean.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grover Beach City Council adopts this resolution opposing the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these comments and other relevant supporting documentation be duly mailed to arrive prior to March 9, 2018 in an envelope labeled, "Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program" and mailed to:

Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief
National Oil & Gas Leasing Program Development & Coordination Branch,
Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

and/or be submitted via the online portal provided at:
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=BOEM-2017-0074>.

FURTHER, copies of these comments will also be submitted to our local representatives for the California State Legislature, to the Office of the Governor, and our local Congressional representatives.

On motion by _____, seconded by _____, and on the following roll-call vote, to wit:

AYES: Council Members -
NOES: Council Members -
ABSENT: Council Members -
ABSTAIN: Council Members -

the foregoing Resolution was **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Grover Beach, California this ____ day of _____, 2018.

**** D R A F T ****

JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK