

WHEREAS, Monterey County residents and visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County residents and visitors value our state's ocean and coastal environment, which support a wide array of plant communities and tens of thousands of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals, including numerous rare, threatened and endangered species that depend on a healthy, clean environment; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary showcases and safeguards the extraordinary ocean wildlife and habitats of Monterey Bay and the Central Coast that help drive our economy and inspire visitors from around the world to travel to our shores; 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, 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, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984; 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, section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) requires the preparation of a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program, setting forth a five-year schedule of lease sales designed to "best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following its approval or re-approval." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management within the U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for implementing the requirements of the OCS Lands Act related to preparing the leasing program; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the principles of section 18 and the resulting regionally tailored leasing strategy, the current exclusion of the Pacific OCS from new oil and gas development is consistent with the long-standing interests of Pacific coast states, as framed in the 2006 Agreement on Ocean Health adopted by the governors of California, Washington, and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, along with many communities on the Pacific coast, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County believes that new oil and gas development in the Pacific OCS can threaten the environment, delay the nation's movement toward a greater reliance on renewable energy development, contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions, and can adversely affect tourism and fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration is considering expanding offshore oil and gas leasing to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management recently released a draft 2019–2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program that proposes 47 new lease sales across all OCS regions, including seven lease sales in the Pacific Region and two in the Central California planning area; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein has requested Monterey County and all California counties to adopt resolutions expressing opposition to new offshore oil and gas development in California; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors strongly and unequivocally supports the existing ban on new oil and gas drilling in federal waters offshore California and opposes attempts by the Federal Government to modify the ban; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board distribute a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, Governor Jerry Brown, Attorney General Xavier Becerra and to our local State Legislators.