

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-58

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH DECLARING THE EXISTENCE  
OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY IN THE CITY

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2021, the United States Coast Guard detected an oil sheen with a radius of approximately 13 square miles located off the Orange County coast; and

WHEREAS, on or about October 2, 2021, the United States Coast Guard notified the City of Huntington Beach about the existence of this significant oil spill of which the conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the City of Huntington Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City's Marine Safety Department identified oil intruding onshore to City and State beaches and inland channels; and

WHEREAS, the oil spill has progressed and impacted almost all beaches, coastal waters, and environmentally sensitive areas in Orange County and the City of Huntington Beach; and

WHEREAS, initial reports state that the oil spill originated from the rupture of an underwater pipeline off the coast of Orange County and is currently estimated to exceed 144,000 gallons; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, residents are being directed to avoid contact with ocean water and/or oil on the beach and to cease recreational and fishing activities due to the toxic nature of the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, by Sunday, October 3, 2021, natural and wildlife impacts include reports of bird oiling, localized fish kills, and oil penetration into the Talbert Wetlands near Huntington Beach; and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made to protect beaches, ecological preserves and other sensitive habitats; and

WHEREAS, the oil spill has the potential for economic impacts for community members, businesses, government agencies, and others due to the loss of outdoor access, tourism, and impacts to commercial and recreational fishing and watersports; and

WHEREAS, the conditions caused by the oil spill create conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of the persons and property within the coastal areas of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Huntington Beach Municipal Code 8.60.070, the City Manager, i.e. the Director of Emergency Management, is empowered to request the City Council to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency if the City Council is in session; and

WHEREAS, the City Council met on October 4, 2021 to discuss the existence of a local emergency pursuant to the significant oil leak/spill; and

WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned facts, there exists extreme peril to the safety of persons and property in the City of Huntington Beach,

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach does hereby resolve as follows:

1. A *Local Emergency* as defined in the California Government Code §8558(c), and Huntington Beach Municipal Code 8.60 exists in the City of Huntington Beach. The City Council shall review, within 30 days, until such *Local Emergency* is terminated, the need for continuing the *Local Emergency* at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

2. The City Manager and the Fire Chief, by virtue of their designations as Director and Deputy Director, respectively, of Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security pursuant to Huntington Beach Municipal Code Chapter 8.60, are hereby designated as the authorized representatives of the City of Huntington Beach for purposes of receipt, processing,

and coordination of all inquiries and requirements necessary to obtain such private, state and federal assistance as may be available.

3. The Proclamation of Local Emergency is hereby issued by the City Council on October 4, 2021.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a special meeting held on the fourth day of October, 2021.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Clerk

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City Attorney *MW*

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

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City Manager