



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS REPORT**

TO: THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR KIM CARR AND COUNCIL MEMBER NATALIE MOSER

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2021

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR A PERMANENT BAN ON NEW OFFSHORE OIL, GAS DRILLING,  
AND SIMILAR EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA**

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The recent Southern California Oil Spill dumped thousands of gallons of oil throughout our waters - fouling sensitive environmental habitats, damaging coastal infrastructure, and disrupting local industries that rely on a healthy coastal environment. While we understand that oil still plays a large role in our day-to-day lives, it is clear that local communities like Huntington Beach must take a proactive stance to reduce their reliance on oil and support more sustainable and safer forms of energy that will neither strain nor damage our environment.

The City of Huntington Beach has been taking those proactive steps to support sustainable industries – ranging from the use of solar panels to embarking on a new Sustainability Master Plan. However, we ask City Council to take additional steps by considering and supporting a statewide stance against new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation activities in federal and state waters off the California coast. We also ask the City Council to support a ban against new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters. These proactive efforts will further our current efforts to support sustainable industries that will reduce our reliance on oil and prevent future, devastating oil spills in our fragile ecosystems.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We recommend that the City Council set aside City Council Manual procedure to adopt the attached Resolution in support of a permanent ban on new offshore oil, gas drilling and similar exploration activities off our coasts and vote to adopt it, as is.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-XX  
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PROTECTING OUR OCEAN  
AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING  
AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Huntington Beach and its visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational and commercial activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our City's residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, in California, hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean water, oil-free beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations, threatening the lives and livelihoods of small business owners, particularly commercial and recreational fisherman; 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 May 2015, a pipeline ruptured near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County and spilled oil into the Pacific Ocean, with oil reaching as far south as Orange County, damaging wildlife, closing beaches, and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, a major spill off Huntington Beach in October 2021 dumped a significant amount of oil into our coastal waters, resulting in beach closures, impacts to recreational and commercial activities, and significant environmental and economic damage; 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 State Senate, the State Lands Commission, and 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 drilling; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling 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.



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

- a) The City of Huntington Beach supports (1) a permanent ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast, and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.
  
- b) The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, California Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, as well as U.S. Congressional and state representatives for Huntington Beach and any other interested parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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Mayor

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Manager

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City Attorney

