



**Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council on
Offshore Oil and Gas Development
Adopted on January 31, 2018**

WHEREAS, the California Ocean Protection Council was created in statute to, among other things, provide state leadership on ocean and coastal policy matters including identifying changes in federal law and policy necessary to improve protection, conservation, and restoration of ocean ecosystems in federal and state waters off the state's coast; and

WHEREAS, On April 28, 2017, the President of the United States 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

WHEREAS, On January 8, 2018 the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published in the federal register a "Notice of Availability of the 2019–2024 Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (DPP) and Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement"; and

WHEREAS, the DPP proposes two leases sales in the Southern California Program Area in 2020 and 2022, two sales in the Northern California Program Area in 2021 and 2023, and two sales in the Central California Program Area in 2021 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, California is home of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which originated in the federal OCS and had a devastating effect on marine life in the Santa Barbara Channel and fouled miles of California's shoreline and beaches; and

WHEREAS; California is home to 124 state Marine Protected Areas, the Point Reyes National Seashore, and four National Marine Sanctuaries (Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, Monterey Bay and Channel Islands) all of which significantly contribute to the State's vibrant and productive ocean and coastal economy while bolstering the sustainability of ocean ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, an oil spill on the California Coast on the scale of the Gulf of Mexico's "Deepwater Horizon" spill would have a substantial negative effect on the State's 1,100-mile coastline, marine environment, and \$2.6 trillion economy; and

WHEREAS, opposition to drilling off California's coast has been expressed consistently by the last three governors (representing both parties), the California State Legislature, the California Coastal Commission, the California State Lands Commission, the California Ocean Protection Council, and many members of the California congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brown, in December 2016, requested that then President Obama permanently withdraw California from any new oil and gas leasing on the OCS; and

WHEREAS, a report released by the Public Policy Institute of California on July 26, 2017 indicates that public support for oil and gas drilling off the California coast is at an all-time low, with 25 percent of Californians in favor, and 69 percent opposed; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brown's Executive Order B-30-15 acknowledges the threat of climate change to the health and well-being of Californians and the State's natural resources and environment, highlights California's efforts to achieve significant emission reductions by 2050, and directs state agencies to implement Safeguarding California, California's Climate Adaptation Strategy; and

WHEREAS, California leads the nation in reducing carbon pollution, including recently enacted legislation requiring statewide greenhouse gas emissions to be 40 percent below the 1990 level by 2030; and

WHEREAS, California is working aggressively towards having one of the most robust and diversified energy portfolio's in the country, including an electricity grid powered by solar, wind, geothermal and biomass renewable resources, and a transportation sector fueled with electricity, natural gas, and biofuels; and

WHEREAS, California played a leadership role in establishing the U.S. Climate Alliance – a coalition of states committed to achieving the U.S. Government's prior goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions 26 to 28 percent from 2005 levels, by 2025; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Jerry Brown, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, and Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued a joint statement on January 4, 2018 committing themselves to doing whatever was necessary to stop renewed oil and gas leasing on the West Coast.

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Ocean Protection Council hereby:

RESOLVES that, the Ocean Protection Council strongly opposes oil and gas leasing on the California OCS, as proposed in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2019–2024 Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the Chairman of the Ocean Protection Council shall write a letter on behalf of the Council to the Secretary of the Department of Interior (Docket ID: BOEM–2017–0074) expressing opposition to oil and gas exploration and leasing in the Pacific region, and requesting that California be removed from further consideration.