

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-_____
RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPPORTING PROTECTION OF OUR OCEAN AND COAST
FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING AND FRACKING

WHEREAS, the County of Marin values our state's ocean waters and coasts, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including whales, sea turtles, birds and fish that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, our county's residents and visitors enjoy California's ocean and beaches for recreational activities, and depend on them for tourism and to support coastal economies; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling off the Pacific coast puts these coastal resources at risk of oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marin opposes an expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off of the California coast because of the threat to our coast, our wildlife and our climate; and

WHEREAS, the Marin County Board of Supervisors has a long history of supporting all possible reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels, and has taken significant steps to address climate change, as evidenced by setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (1999); joining the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign administered by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (2002); signing the Urban Environmental Accords (2006); adopting a Local Action Plan to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 (2006); accepting the report "Fossil Free by '33" (2006); adopting the most recent Countywide Plan (2007); founding the state's first Community Choice Aggregation agency, the Marin Energy Authority (2008); adopting Resolution No. 2013-65 supporting a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in the state of California (2013); and adopting Resolution No. 2017-61 opposing the review of federal designations of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (2017), among other actions; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has taken recent steps to vastly expand offshore oil and gas leasing in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico that have been largely off-limits to new federal leasing; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as "fracking and other well stimulation," provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California's coast; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes, and the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year - including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the state of California prohibits new leasing in state waters because of the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment of the state; and

WHEREAS, the governor of California, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission and cities, including Los Angeles, have called for no new federal offshore leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for limits to onshore fracking, including Marin County, Alameda County, Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, Butte County and the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation deepens our dependence upon fossil fuels and undermine the state's efforts to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump's America First Offshore Energy Executive Order could open the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico to new drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills and exacerbating an already accelerating rate of global climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Marin supports (1) a ban on new drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast, (2) a prohibition of any new federal oil and gas leases in the Pacific, Atlantic or Arctic oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico — areas currently protected from new leases; and 3) a rapid phase-out of all oil and gas extraction off the California coast on a rapid schedule sufficient to respond to the global climate change crisis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this ___th day of _____ 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES:

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

CLERK