

## RESOLUTION

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: December 9, 2025

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

**WHEREAS**, the ocean covers roughly 70% of the Earth's surface, produces half the oxygen we breathe through its plant life, serves as a major highway for global trade, provides food, absorbs excess carbon from climate change, and plays a critical role in shaping weather patterns; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling carries countless negative effects including air pollution from toxic emissions known to cause asthma, lung cancer, and other diseases; the constant threat of oil spills that harm wildlife and their habitats; and damage to the fishing and tourism industries, which are vital to California's coastal economy; and

**WHEREAS**, past oil spill disasters, such as the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, the Refugio Spill in 2015 off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, and the devastating 1969 Santa Barbara Spill have caused catastrophic impacts to human life, wildlife, coastal ecosystems, and local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, an analysis by Oceana found that protecting all unleased federal waters from offshore drilling in the United States could prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of taking every car in the nation off the road for 15 years; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2025 President Trump signed the Unleashing American Energy executive order, which encourages energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters, including on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2025, President Trump signed the Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources executive order to permit deep seabed mining, which would have significant negative impacts on our marine ecosystems, fisheries, and local coastal economies; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2025, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) released its Draft Five-Year Oil and Gas Drilling Program, which identifies Southern California coastal waters for new oil and gas drilling operations.

**WHEREAS**, California's marine protected areas and sanctuaries protect unique ecosystems and cultural resources but significant areas of the Pacific remain vulnerable to offshore oil and gas development; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat of future leasing proposals persists in the absence of a permanent nationwide prohibition on new offshore drilling; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors opposes any new or expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, and deep seabed mining, and urges federal and state decision-makers to permanently prohibit offshore drilling and deep seabed mining in all U.S. waters, including the Pacific Ocean off California.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County of San Diego will participate in the Local Government Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coordination Program, in order to work collaboratively with other jurisdictions to protect California's coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems from offshore drilling.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

David J. Smith, Acting County Counsel

BY: Inga Lintvedt, Chief Deputy County Counsel