

RESOLUTION NO. 25-185

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING NEW AND EXISTING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING, AND DEEP SEABED MINING

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, 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, 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

WHEREAS, protecting California's coastlines from the impacts of oil and gas development is essential to safeguarding the environment and public health. Tribal cultural resources, climate resilience, and coastal economies; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, via Resolution 18-13, opposed the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast in the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (Federal Register Doc No: 2018-00083) because such action threatens the regional clean-coast economy which relies on healthy ecosystems, fisheries, and the multiple visitor-serving industries that depend on them; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino 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 PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that the County of Mendocino 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.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Cline, seconded by Supervisor Williams, and carried this 18th day of November, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Cline, Mulheren, Haschak, Norvell, and Williams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board



Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CHARLOTTE E. SCOTT
County Counsel





JOHN HASCHAK, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

BY: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board



Deputy