

RESOLUTION NO. 18-012

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE 2019-2024 DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM (FR DOC NO: 2018-00083, COMMENT DEADLINE MARCH 9, 2018)

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino hereby submits this Resolution in response to the request for comments on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019 through 2024 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program as now proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) as referenced in Federal Register Volume 83, Number 5 (Monday, January 8, 2018) Notices, Pages 829-834, FR Doc No: 2018-00083; and

WHEREAS, the County Mendocino opposes the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program 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

WHEREAS, the County of Mendocino finds the provision by BOEM of only one California public meeting opportunity on the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program to be wholly inadequate and hereby requests official government hearings of record in our coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program is in violation of the Critical Balancing requirements of the OCS Lands Act as Amended (OCSLAA), including, but not limited to, BOEM's failure to balance the limited petroleum resource potential of various regions with their relative environmental sensitivity, the agency's failure to provide adequate consultation with affected state governors, and other inadequacies of concern; and

WHEREAS, the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program fails to consider the laws, goals, and policies of the affected regions, including California's federally-certified Coastal Zone Management Plan, California's longstanding State Tidelands Oil and Gas Sanctuary, relevant County Local Coastal Plans, and duly-adopted local onshore OCS facility land-use ordinances which preclude outright, or require a vote of the electorate to consider, any proposed onshore facilities serving offshore oil and gas activities; and

WHEREAS, the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program is in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the jurisdiction of the Marine Mammal Protection Act over proposed hydrocarbon exploration using damaging seismic air gun surveys; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary preclude disturbance of the seabed, hydrocarbon exploration and drilling; and

WHEREAS, the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program fails to offer a public comment period of adequate duration and scope to enable impacted communities to provide important input on the proposal, thereby curtailing requisite opportunity for citizen input; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with the proposed adoption of the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, the Administration is also calling for significantly weakening critical well-safety and blowout-preventer inspection measures necessary to bring about enhanced worker safety and ecosystem protections in a manner consistent with lessons learned from the tragic April 20, 2010 British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon offshore oil spill disaster; and

WHEREAS, BOEM, in promulgating and circulating the DPP Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, has violated the Administrative Procedures Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (including, but not limited to, 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 46.235), the OCSLAA (including but not limited to 30 CFR part 556), and multiple other federal and state statutes; and

WHEREAS, BOEM has ignored the climate impacts of carbon emissions from proposed hydrocarbon exploration, development, and potential transport on the OCS; and

WHEREAS, BOEM's proposed drilling plans disregard California's coastal-dependent economy and the state's policies to protect it; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors adopts this resolution commenting as requested on the Draft Proposed Program for 2019 through 2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these comments and other relevant supporting documentation be duly mailed to arrive prior to March 9, 2018 in an envelope labeled "Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program" to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216 and/or be submitted via the online portal provided at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=BOEM-2017-0074>. Comments may also be submitted in person at one of the public meetings noticed at <https://www.BOEM.gov/National-OCS-Program>, which includes only one California hearing to be held in Sacramento on February 8, 2018. Further, copies of these comments will also be submitted in timely fashion to the California State Legislature, to California's Governor, to all members of California's Congressional Delegation, and to the White House.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor McCowen, seconded by Supervisor Brown, and carried this 23rd day of January, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Croskey, Gjerde, and Hamburg
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

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

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board


Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
KATHARINE L. ELLIOTT
County Counsel




DAN HAMBURG, 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: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board


Deputy