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San Diego City Council Unanimously Opposes the Federal Administration's Offshore Drilling Proposal

San Diego, CA – The San Diego City Council has unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Council President Joe LaCava opposing the federal administration's proposal to open new offshore drilling leases in U.S. waters. The resolution directs the City Clerk to send a copy of the approved resolution as a public comment from the City of San Diego to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM).

"Today the City Council unanimously passed my resolution rejecting the Administration's proposal to initiate oil and gas exploration off the coast of the United States and especially off the coast of San Diego," said Council President Joe LaCava who was joined by Councilmember Elo-Rivera and leading regional environmental and oceanic organizations. "To meet our city's climate action goals, to protect the resources San Diegans value, and to leave a better world for generations to come, we must say no to offshore drilling."

On November 20, 2025, the BOEM opened the comment period for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program which includes 34 potential offshore lease sales, authorizing companies to explore, develop and produce oil and gas for a primary term of five to ten years in the leased area.

"Offshore drilling would be devastating for San Diego's communities," said Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera. "It puts our coastline, local jobs, public health, and climate at risk—all so oil companies can squeeze a little more profit out of our waters. A single spill could permanently damage neighborhoods and livelihoods that generations of San Diegans depend on. As a coastal city, we have a responsibility to protect the people who live and work here, both today

and in the future. We must not sacrifice them for the benefit of fossil fuel corporations that don't care about and won't bear the consequences."

Opening the Pacific coast, particularly the waters off San Diego, to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration will put coastal resources at risk, threaten all commercial activity along the shore and off our coast, and limit military readiness. Additionally, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling endangers marine wildlife and human health.

"Coastkeeper commends Council President LaCava for his leadership in opposing the resumption of offshore drilling in California," said Phillip Musegaas, executive director of San Diego Coastkeeper. "We will fight to protect our coastal marine resources and economy with every tool at our disposal, knowing that oil drilling represents an existential threat to our coastal waters and communities."

Opening new areas of California's coast to offshore drilling is counterproductive to the City's Climate Action Plan goals to address climate change and expansion of oil and gas development would increase greenhouse gas emissions and would further the State of California's dependence on fossil fuels.

"Advancing plans for offshore drilling off California will threaten beaches, coastal ecosystems, and jeopardize the coastal tourism and recreation industries," said Mitch Silverstein of Surfrider Foundation. "We will continue to stand with San Diego, and coastal communities across the country to oppose this administration's new offshore drilling plan."

Offshore oil and gas drilling has a storied, and devastating history in the United States. The impacts from spills, explosions, and exploration has left families, businesses, and ecosystem forever altered.

"San Diego is sending a powerful message that our city refuses to accept decisions for short-term profit that sacrifice future generations," said Sophia T, a high school senior and Youth v. Oil, SanDiego350 member. "I am speaking today not only for my peers, but for the children who deserve a future, for those who will go on to discover a world where protecting our planet is still possible."

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Council President Joe LaCava represents San Diego's First Council District, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and a portion of University City west of the 1-5.