

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

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As proposed by staff**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION OPPOSING THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES'
DRAFT PROPOSED 5-YEAR OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS
LEASING PROGRAM FOR 2010-2015**

WHEREAS, the California coast, stretching over 1,000 miles from the redwood forests and rocky shores of the north to the palm trees and wide, sandy beaches of the south, is a region of incomparable beauty and natural splendor, blessed with an abundance of rich and diverse resources; and

WHEREAS, California's coast supports a wide array of plant communities and tens of thousands of insects and other invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals, including numerous rare and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, California's beaches, bays, and ocean are major attractions, helping to make the state the number one travel destination in the United States with over 300 million domestic visitors and 14 million visitors from other countries according to recent annual figures published by the California Travel and Tourism Commission; and

WHEREAS, the state's coastal and ocean environments have been seriously harmed by events like the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, which spewed more than 3 million gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean, and the 2007 Cosco Busan oil spill, which dumped approximately 58,000 gallons of medium grade fuel oil in the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, oil spills harm the environment, economy, and tourism by polluting water and land, killing wildlife, closing beaches, and restricting water related recreation, fishing/trapping activities and ship movement; and

WHEREAS, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) has exclusive jurisdiction over all ungranted tide and submerged lands owned by the state, and of the beds of navigable rivers, streams, lakes, bays, estuaries, inlets, and straits; and

WHEREAS, the Commission serves the people of California by providing stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care through economic development, protection, preservation, and restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has exercised its stewardship by expressly supporting the former presidential and congressional moratoria on oil and gas leasing within protected offshore areas; and

WHEREAS, the Commission formally imposed its own offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium in 1988 and 1989; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, the Commission passed eight resolutions opposing the resumption or expansion of federal offshore oil and gas leasing operations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that offshore oil and gas development, among other things, threatens the environment, prevents the nation from moving away from its dependency on fossil fuels, contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases, and adversely affects tourism; and

WHEREAS, Governor Schwarzenegger has united with the governors of Oregon and Washington in a bipartisan effort to commit to renewable energy sources instead of increasing our dependence on fossil fuel; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1921, and many times since, the California Legislature has enacted laws that set aside offshore areas where oil and gas leasing was generally prohibited; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the California State Legislature made findings and declaration in Assembly Bill 2444 that offshore oil and gas production in certain areas of state waters poses an unacceptable high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment of the state; and

WHEREAS, in the same bill, the Legislature created the California Coastal Sanctuary, which included all of the state's unleased waters subject to tidal influence, and prohibited new oil and gas leases in the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Mineral Management Service's (MMS) Draft Proposed 5-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015 schedules OCS lease sales in the Point Arena Basin in Northern California, and the Santa Maria, Santa Barbara/Ventura, and Oceanside/Capistrano Basins in Southern California; and

WHEREAS, MMS's Draft Proposed 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program runs counter to the actions and positions taken by the California Governor, State Legislature, and the Commission against offshore oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, MMS's Draft Proposed 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program poses a threat to California's environment and economy, thwarts efforts by the state to move toward renewable energy development, and helps perpetuate the state's dependency on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that the federal government should be shifting its focus from OCS oil and gas leasing to the development of renewable energy sources, which may include offshore wind and wave energy in federal waters; and

Resolved by the California State Lands Commission that it opposes the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Services' Draft Proposed 5-year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015; and be it further

Resolved, that it requests that the federal government prohibit new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of California and continue to move forward with renewable energy development; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Governor of California, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, to the Director the Minerals Management Service, and to each member of the California State Senate and Assembly.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission on _____.

