MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 82 was approved as Minute Item No. 82 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 8-8-05 meeting.

Minute Item
82

08/08/05

P. Thayer

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION AND

Regular Item 82: The Executive Officer presented a resolution to the Commission for adoption concerning the lifting of an ongoing federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium. The item was approved by a 3-0 vote.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE, *Lieutenant Governor*
STEVE WESTLY, *Controller*
TOM CAMPBELL, *Director of Finance*

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RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION REQUESTING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE THE FEDERAL OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING MORATORIUM

WHEREAS, California's history of protecting its coast from oil and gas development goes back to 1955 and 1963 when the California Legislature prohibited oil and gas leasing in the state waters off Monterey and Santa Cruz counties and portions of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties; and

WHEREAS, The State Lands Commission (Commission) later filled in large geographic gaps in the state sanctuary statutes by administratively establishing a sanctuary to prohibit new oil and gas leasing in all state coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, Since the 1969 blowout of a well in federal waters off Santa Barbara that spilled 80,000 barrels of crude oil, the Commission has not issued a single new offshore oil and gas lease; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has protected California coastline from expanded offshore drilling for the past twenty-four years, renewing this protection in the form of a legislative moratorium contained in the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature continued the State's history of restricting oil and gas development in its own waters by enacting the California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, which incorporated the administrative sanctuary previously established by the California State Lands Commission and created a statutory statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits future oil and gas leasing in all state coastal waters, from Mexico to the Oregon border, in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, Since 1994, the Commission has enlarged the sanctuary by obtaining quitclaims for eleven oil development leases; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, a bipartisan California congressional delegation opposed further leasing in the California Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in response to the proposed federal 5-year leasing program for the years 1997-2002; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of California do not favor new oil drilling off their coastline and support protecting their fragile coastal environment over development of the relatively small amounts of oil in the California offshore; and

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WHEREAS, The federal government has taken steps in the past to protect California from oil development in federal waters, for example, in 1990, the Department of Interior cancelled federal Oil and Gas Lease Sales Nos. 91, 95 and 119 which would have threatened more than 9.9 million acres of offshore federal lands with oil development and the increased likelihood of oil spills; and

WHEREAS, There are many worthy options before the Congress that would increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as incentives to improve energy efficiency, requirements to improve automobile fuel efficiency, research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, fully funding energy conservation and efficiency programs, including solar and renewables, weatherization, and other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The Commission adopted on August 19,2003 a resolution "Opposing a Federal Inventory of Offshore Oil and Gas Resources" as proposed in the federal Energy Policy Act of 2003, because such an inventory could lead to a lifting of the oil and gas moratorium, and

WHEREAS, President Bush's FY 2006 Budget supports a continuation of the congressional offshore leasing moratorium; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has introduced S. 726 and a draft policy called the State Enhanced Authority for Coastal and Offshore Resources Act of 2005 (SEACOR), has been discussed by industry and legislative staff, both of which would give state governors authority to override federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratoria; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the California State Lands Commission that it urges the President and the Congress of the United States to continue the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for FY 2006, and beyond, and to explore options to increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as incentives to improve energy efficiency, requirements to improve automobile fuel efficiency, research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, fully funding energy conservation and efficiency; 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 the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission on April 26, 2005