MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 45 was approved as Minute Item No. 45 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 02-05-07 meeting.

Minute Item
45

02/05/07

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Regular Item 45: The Executive Office made a presentation to the Commission concerning a resolution prohibiting offshore oil development. The Commission approved the resolution as presented by a vote of 3-0.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

JOHN GARAMENDI, *Lieutenant Governor*
JOHN CHIANG, *Controller*
MICHAEL C. GENEST, *Director of Finance*

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PROPOSED

RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 151 (BOXER AND FEINSTEIN), WHICH PROHIBITS NEW OIL AND GAS LEASING IN FEDERAL WATERS OFF CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein have introduced S.151 to prohibit new oil and gas leasing in federal waters off California; and

WHEREAS, California's 1,100 mile coastline, with its beautiful beaches, wild cliffs, abundant fish stocks and fragile environment is a national treasure and a valuable state resource, which is at the heart of a tourist industry that generates nearly five billion dollars in state and local taxes each year; and is the heart of the state's $43 billion ocean economy; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of California have long opposed new oil and gas drilling off their coastline and support protecting the fragile and valuable coastal environment over development of the relatively small amounts of oil and gas offshore California; and

WHEREAS, California initiated protection of its coast from oil and gas development when the California Legislature in 1955 and 1963, 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 California State Lands Commission has not issued any offshore oil and gas lease for new areas since the 1969 spill from a well in Federal waters off Santa Barbara that released over three million gallons of crude oil, coating Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature continued the State's efforts to restrict oil and gas development in its own waters by enacting the California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, which codified the Commission's earlier administrative prohibition of new offshore leases 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, The U.S. Congress has protected California coastline from expanded offshore drilling for more than twenty years, renewing this protection in the form of a legislative moratorium contained in the annual appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, The need for new oil development can be reduced by improving automobile fuel efficiency and energy efficiency, utilizing and further researching renewable energy and alternative fuels, and fully funding energy conservation and efficiency programs, including solar and renewables, weatherization, and other initiatives; thus increasing energy independence and reducing the reliance on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the steady opposition to new oil and gas leasing off California, various proposals have been made in the last five years to end the federal moratorium or to take steps, such as oil and gas inventories, that are intended to lead to new leasing; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has adopted six resolutions since 2001 supporting the existing moratorium on new federal leases and opposing the new initiatives to open the California coast to new oil and gas development and leases; and

WHEREAS, S.151, recently introduced by Senator's Boxer and Feinstein would permanently ban new oil and gas leasing in federal waters, consistent with the state's own prohibition of new leasing in state waters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION, That it supports S.151 and the prohibition it proposes for new oil and gas leases in federal waters off California and urges Congress to adopt this measure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States and the Federal government be encouraged 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, provide funding for research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, and 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 House Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission on _____