

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

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EXHIBIT A

AS PROPOSED BY STAFF

**RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
IN OPPOSITION TO A BILL IN CONGRESS (H.R. 1231) ENTITLED THE “REVERSING
PRESIDENT OBAMA’S OFFSHORE MORATORIUM ACT” THAT WOULD RESULT
IN OPENING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST TO NEW OIL LEASING IN THE
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF BY THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, the California coast, stretching over 1,100 miles, is a region blessed with an abundance of rich and diverse resources including its beautiful beaches, unique natural habitats, bustling ports, and world famous tourist attractions; it is truly a special place for its residents, visitors, businesses, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, California’s beaches, bays, and ocean are major attractions, making the multi-billion dollar tourism industry in California a vital part of the national, state and local economies; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest ocean economy in the United States, ranking first overall for both employment and gross state product, and containing the first, second, and fifth busiest ports in the country; and

WHEREAS, California’s coast supports a wide array of wildlife and habitat, including threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, oil spills pose a significant threat to California’s marine environment, economy, and tourism by polluting water and land, killing wildlife, destroying marine habitat, closing beaches, and restricting public access, water related recreation, fishing/trapping activities and ship movement; and

WHEREAS, the California’s marine environments have suffered from significant disasters such as 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, 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 managing 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, since 1968, prior to the Santa Barbara oil spill from a federal OCS platform, the Commission has not entered into any new offshore oil and gas leases; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that additional offshore oil and gas leasing and development threatens the environment, prevents the nation from reducing its dependency on fossil fuels, contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases, and adversely affects tourism and fisheries; 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 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, finding 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 2006, the Governors of California, Washington, and Oregon formed the West Coast Governors' *Agreement On Ocean Health* and released an action plan that opposes new offshore oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, one year ago the devastating effects of an oil spill were unfortunately realized once again when British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon offshore oil facility in the Gulf of Mexico exploded on April 20, 2010, leaving 11 oil workers dead, 17 injured, and spewed an estimated 62,000 barrels of oil a day for over 80 days, totaling 4.9 million barrels or 205.8 million gallons, making the spill the worst in United States history; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement revised Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing strategy for 2012-2017 does not include any plans for new leasing along the California Coast; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1231, known as the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act, seeks to amend the OCS Lands Act to require that each 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, including off the coast of California, and to establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2011 the House Committee on Natural Resources ordered H.R. 1231 be reported to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2010 the Commission passed a resolution that urged Congress and the President of the United States to permanently ban new offshore oil and gas lease sales off the coast of California; 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; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the California State Lands Commission that it opposes enactment of H.R. 1231, the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act; 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 of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, and to each member of the California State Senate and Assembly.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission on _____.