

**REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

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DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso   
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No. 25-0002-S89  
Assignment No: 25-11-0960

SUBJECT: Resolution to Oppose Oil and Gas Exploration and Drilling Off the California Coast

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Park – McOsker – Nazarian – Hutt) to include in the City’s 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program, opposition to any action by the Department of the Interior to open or expand oil and gas exploration, leasing, or drilling in federal waters off the California coastline, and the Atlantic coastline.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Park – McOsker – Nazarian – Hutt), introduced November 4, 2025, states that the City of Los Angeles relies on a healthy coastal and marine environment to sustain critical industries such as tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing, which are economic engines for the community. Clean water, thriving ecosystems, and intact coastal habitats are vital to the health and safety of residents, and overall quality of life in Los Angeles.

The Resolution states that offshore oil exploration and drilling carry the risks of oil spills, leaks, and habitat destruction, in addition to increased carbon emissions and long-term pollution that threaten both human and environmental health, as well the climate and the economy, with disproportionate impacts on frontline communities. The Resolution notes that the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) is considering new lease sales as part of the federal five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City include opposition to any action by the DOI to open or expand oil and gas exploration, leasing, or drilling in federal waters off the California coastline, and the Atlantic coastline, in the City’s 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program.

BACKGROUND

The National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program is a federal, five-year schedule of offshore lease sales that the Secretary of the interior must prepare under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to guide which parts of federal waters are offered for oil and gas exploration and production. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) develops the program, balancing national energy needs against environmental protection, coastal zone management, and input from states, industry, and the public.

The current 10th program (2024-2029), finalized under the Biden federal administration, authorized only three lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, the fewest since the modern OCS program began, reflecting a more restrictive leasing posture. In 2025, pursuant to new policy directives from the Trump federal administration, the DOI initiated work on the 11th National OCS Program to replace the 2024-2029 plan, starting with a formal request for information and public comment.

On November 20, 2025, the DOI released a first draft proposal for the 2026-2031 program that would dramatically expand offshore leasing, identifying up to 34 potential lease sales across 21 of 27 OCS planning areas, including areas off Alaska, in the Gulf of Mexico, and—critically for the City and California—for the first time in decades, multiple proposed sales off the Pacific Coast.

The projected environmental impacts of expanded OCS leasing include increased risk of large and chronic oil spills that can smother California’s coastlines, killing seabirds and various marine life, as well as forcing closures of beaches and fisheries. Even without major spills, routine operations discharge contaminated wastewater, generate air pollution from platforms and support vessels, and add underwater noise and ship traffic that can disturb or injure whales and other sensitive species, including in the Santa Barbara Channel. BOEM’s own programmatic analyses for recent five-year plans conclude that opening new regions like the Pacific would raise cumulative stressors on already impacted marine ecosystems and coastal communities compared with keeping these areas closed to leasing.

Supporters of the DOI’s consideration of new OCS lease sales argue that offshore leasing helps sustain domestic energy supply, which could moderate fuel and electricity costs for the City, and reduce reliance on foreign producers whose practices may be more environmentally harmful or geopolitically unstable. This could prevent sharper economic shocks for working families and small businesses.

#### *Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration*

The Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration provided comments on the subject of offshore drilling, noting issues with pipeline ruptures (aging infrastructure), blowouts, and tanker damages. The Office noted the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, along with the Orange County oil spill in 2021, the pipeline rupture near Refugio State Beach in 2015, and a well blowout in the Santa Barbara Channel in 1969, all as examples of the risks of increasing exploration and drilling in the ocean.

#### DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Water and Power  
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation  
Harbor Department  
Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety

*CD Fields*

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Christopher Fields  
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Park – McOske – Nazarian – Hutt)

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles relies on a healthy coastal and marine environment to sustain critical industries such as tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing, which are economic engines for the community; and

WHEREAS, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and intact coastal habitats are vital to the health and safety of residents, and overall quality of life in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil exploration and drilling carry the risk of oil spills, leaks and habitat destruction, in addition to increased carbon emissions and long-term pollution that threaten both human and environmental health, as well our climate, with disproportionate impacts on frontline communities; and

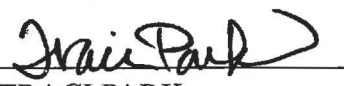
WHEREAS, the environmental risk from drilling can reduce tourism, damage business investment, and compromise local economies along the California coastline; and


WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) is considering new lease sales as part of the federal five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the protection of California's coastal ecosystems and economies, and the long-term public interest of Los Angeles residents, must be prioritized over short-term private industry gains from expanded offshore drilling;

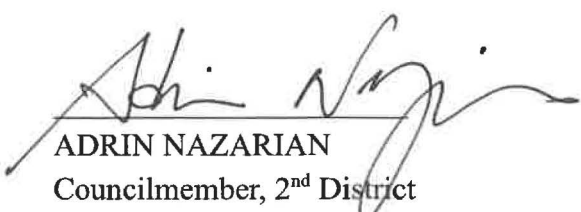
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Program opposition to any action by the United States Department of the Interior to open or expand oil and gas exploration, leasing, or drilling in federal waters off the California coastline, and the Atlantic coastline.

PRESENTED BY:

  
TRACI PARK  
Councilwoman, 11<sup>th</sup> District

  
TIM MCOSKER  
Councilmember, 15<sup>th</sup> District

ORIGINAL

  
ADRIN NAZARIAN  
Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



  
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