

Talking Points: Offshore Drilling & Fracking Resolutions

- Offshore drilling and fracking directly threaten coastal communities and marine life – and contribute to climate change and ocean acidification by increasing our dependence on fossil fuels and delaying our transition to clean energy.
- On April 28, President Trump issued an executive order attempting to vastly expand offshore drilling and revoke permanent protections that Obama placed on sensitive Arctic and Atlantic waters. The feds also recently lifted the moratorium on offshore fracking off California’s coast. Californians will need to present an organized resistance to protect the Pacific from offshore drilling and fracking, as well as sea level rise.
- President Trump announced his intent to withdraw from the Paris climate accords and expand offshore drilling into previously protected areas. It’s up to California, its cities, and its residents to guard our coastline against dangerous offshore drilling and the worst impacts of climate change.
- Our voices matter. When the Obama administration proposed an offshore lease sale in the Atlantic Ocean, 123 East Coast municipalities passed resolutions opposing offshore drilling and seismic blasting. In the face of such opposition from residents, their representatives, and more than 41,000 businesses, the Obama administration removed the Atlantic from the leasing plan.
- Along the California coast alone, nearly 410,000 jobs and \$20 billion in gross domestic product rely on healthy ocean ecosystems, through fishing, tourism and recreation. This far outweighs any potential jobs or economic gains that could ever be provided from offshore drilling.
- Fracking is a dirty, dangerous practice that has absolutely no place in our ocean. Oil companies have fracked hundreds of offshore wells in California’s ocean, using toxic chemicals that endanger wildlife and human health. Studies have shown that at least 10 chemicals routinely used in offshore fracking in California could kill or harm a broad variety of marine species, including sea otters and fish.
- The offshore oil companies are permitted to dump up to 9 billion gallons of wastewater, including toxic fracking chemicals, directly into the ocean, risking harm to vulnerable marine life and public health.
- Offshore drilling inevitably leads to oil spills. The Refugio oil spill in 2015 showed us how much damage oil can do to our coastal environment, killing hundreds of marine mammals and shorebirds and coating Santa Barbara area beaches in oil.
- Identifying new fossil fuel deposits uses deafening seismic airgun blasting that harms, disorients, and can kill whales and other marine mammals. Oil platforms wreck marine ecosystems during construction, and during operations, the noise, pollution, and artificial lighting harms seabirds and marine life.
- Ending new fossil fuel leasing in federal waters would prevent the release of up to 61.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, or the equivalent of driving 13 billion passenger cars for one year.