

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Members Nava and Evans

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Bass, Beall, Blumenfield, Brownley, Caballero, Carter, Coto, Davis, De La Torre, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Hayashi, Hill, Huffman, Jones, Krekorian, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Monning, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Skinner, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torrico, and Yamada)

January 23, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Relative to offshore oil drilling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 3, as amended, Nava. Offshore oil drilling.

This measure would request that the Congress of the United States reinstate the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009 fiscal year and beyond. This measure would also memorialize the Legislature’s opposition to the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling off the Pacific Coast and any federal energy policies and legislation that would weaken California’s role in energy siting decisions by those policies.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of the Interior, acting
- 2 in President Bush’s final days in office, on January 16, 2009,

1 proposed opening up six million acres off of California's coast to
2 drilling for oil and natural gas; and

3 WHEREAS, While the Obama Administration has put a hold
4 on the Department of the Interior's January 16th plan in order to
5 consider various possible impacts of offshore oil development as
6 well as consider input from the public, the expansion of oil
7 development in areas previously protected by the outer continental
8 shelf moratorium remain under consideration; and

9 WHEREAS, Proposed drilling areas include areas off Humboldt
10 and Mendocino Counties and from San Luis Obispo south to San
11 Diego; and

12 WHEREAS, Following the infamous January 29, 1969, oil spill
13 that resulted in the spillage of 3,200,000 gallons of crude oil and
14 that fouled Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches, Californians
15 became even more wary about offshore oil drilling, continuing
16 with the passage of additional oil and gas leasing prohibitions in
17 1969, 1970, and 1971; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1994, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of
19 1994 (Chapter 3.4 (commencing with Section 6240) of Part 1 of
20 Division 6 of the Public Resources Code) became law, creating a
21 comprehensive statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits, in
22 perpetuity, future oil and gas leasing in state waters, from Mexico
23 to the Oregon border, and that adds leases to the sanctuary as they
24 are quitclaimed to the state; and

25 WHEREAS, In addition, the protection of California's
26 spectacular 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to a
27 number of our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries,
28 including tourism and commercial fishing, which contributed over
29 \$50 billion to California's economy in 2003; and

30 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters are also home to four
31 important sanctuaries, that are, by definition, areas of special
32 conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural,
33 archaeological, scientific, educational, and aesthetic qualities and
34 are particularly sensitive to the impacts of oil development; and

35 WHEREAS, Additional offshore oil leasing and production
36 would degrade the quality of our air and water and adversely impact
37 our marine resources, including seismic surveys that could severely
38 impact marine mammals, including threatened and endangered
39 species such as the blue and humpback whale; and

1 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development poses a serious risk of
2 oil spills, especially with the introduction of deepwater drilling
3 technologies and floating oil storage and processing vessels,
4 thereby threatening marine ecosystems, and could have devastating
5 effects on the southern sea otter, listed as a threatened species since
6 1997, as well as onshore wildlife, birds, and their habitats in the
7 ocean, in estuaries, and on beaches; and

8 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development also leads to the
9 industrialization of the shoreline, creating land use conflicts,
10 visually degrading coastal areas, and posing potentially
11 life-threatening public safety risks; and

12 WHEREAS, The further development of nonrenewable resources
13 that degrade our air, water, and land is contrary to our state's goals
14 of reducing emissions that cause global warming, improving air
15 quality, and increasing the use of renewable energy; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
18 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
19 respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States reinstate
20 the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009
21 fiscal year and beyond; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
23 respectfully opposes the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling
24 off the Pacific Coast and any federal energy policies and legislation
25 that would weaken California's legitimate role in energy siting
26 decisions due to the threat posed by those policies and legislation
27 to the integrity of California's coastal and ocean dependent tourism
28 and fishing economies and the consolidation of project review
29 authority with the federal government; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
32 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each
33 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
34 United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, and to the author
35 for appropriate distribution.