

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 27, 2009

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)

(Coauthors: Senators Pavley, Wiggins, and Yee)

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Following the infamous January 29, 1969, oil spill
15 that resulted in the spillage of 3,200,000 gallons of crude oil and
16 that fouled Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches, Californians
17 became even more wary about offshore oil drilling, continuing
18 with the passage of additional oil and gas leasing prohibitions in
19 1969, 1970, and 1971; and

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

27 WHEREAS, In addition, the protection of California's
28 spectacular 1,100-mile coastline is of the utmost importance to a
29 number of our state's coastal and ocean-dependent industries,
30 including tourism and commercial fishing, which contributed over
31 \$50 billion to California's economy in 2003; and

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

37 WHEREAS, Additional offshore oil leasing and production
38 would degrade the quality of our air and water and adversely impact
39 our marine resources, including seismic surveys that could severely

1 impact marine mammals, including threatened and endangered
2 species such as the blue and humpback whale; and

3 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development poses a serious risk of
4 oil spills, especially with the introduction of deepwater drilling
5 technologies and floating oil storage and processing vessels,
6 thereby threatening marine ecosystems, and could have devastating
7 effects on the southern sea otter, listed as a threatened species since
8 1997, as well as onshore wildlife, birds, and their habitats in the
9 ocean, in estuaries, and on beaches; and

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

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

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

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

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

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