

House Resolution

No. 20

Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson

April 12, 1999

House Resolution No. 20—Relative to offshore oil development.

1 WHEREAS, The California coastline and Pacific Ocean
2 are essential components for the quality of life for all
3 Californians and represent a way of life to those residing
4 in coastal communities. By contributing to the mental
5 and physical health, leisure activities, and property values
6 of the residents of this state, the coast's natural beauty
7 supports a booming tourism industry that is the economic
8 lifeline of coastal cities and towns, and helps to pay for
9 schools, parks, police and fire protection, and other
10 community services; and

11 WHEREAS, California's offshore environment
12 contains some of the most intricate, diverse, and
13 ecologically important biosystems in the world, especially
14 in the Channel Islands and the Monterey Bay National
15 Marine Sanctuaries; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1994 the State of California passed the
17 California Coastal Sanctuary Act (Chapter 3.4
18 (commencing with Section 6240) of Part 1 of Division 6
19 of the Public Resources Code), which permanently bans
20 any further offshore oil and gas leases in state waters; and

21 WHEREAS, Though the state ban and the federal
22 moratorium of Presidents Bush and Clinton on the sale of

1 new oil leases remain in place, there currently exist 40
2 outstanding leases in federal waters off California's coast
3 that could be developed within the next 3 to 5 years; two
4 of these leases are directly adjacent to and will impact the
5 Channel Islands National Park. There are additionally 87
6 tracts that are exempted from the moratorium and
7 potentially could be leased; and

8 WHEREAS, Because of its viscosity and high sulfur
9 content, the crude oil contained in many of the
10 undeveloped tracts is less suitable for the production of
11 gasoline, and instead will likely be used for the production
12 of asphalt; and

13 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development, production,
14 and transportation in the State of California negatively
15 impact those coastal communities as a result of oil spills,
16 which endanger habitat for wildlife, cause airborne
17 pollution and toxic gas releases, and restrict public coastal
18 access; and

19 WHEREAS, Major tanker spills have occurred as
20 recently as this decade off El Segundo and Orange
21 County; and

22 WHEREAS, Implementation of speed limits, traffic
23 separation schemes, and areas to be avoided for oil
24 tankers and other large vessels have resulted in a
25 decreased number of accidents; and

26 WHEREAS, The impact on coastal communities of
27 increased offshore oil development and inadequate
28 vessel safety threatens to cause substantial damage to
29 marine ecosystems, losses in the commercial fishing and
30 tourism industries, reduced quality of life for residents,
31 additional health risks, and lower property values; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,*
34 That the Assembly respectfully memorializes the
35 President and the Congress of the United States to enact
36 legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Interior
37 to impose a permanent ban on offshore oil drilling off the
38 coast of California, which would include the expiration of
39 existing leases for offshore oil drilling; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California
2 urges the Congress of the United States to pass the Coastal
3 States Protection Act (H.R. 1036), which would direct
4 the Secretary of the Interior to do all of the following:

5 (1) Cease federal oil leasing and production in federal
6 waters when a coastal state has declared a moratorium on
7 oil development in adjacent state waters.

8 (2) Undertake measures to decrease the impact of oil
9 development off the California coast, including the
10 adoption of mandatory speed limits for oil tankers and
11 large vessels and the mandatory use of sea traffic “lanes”
12 known as “traffic separation schemes.”

13 (3) Designate the Monterey Bay National Sanctuary as
14 an “area to be avoided” by proponents of offshore oil
15 development; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
17 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
18 Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the
19 Interior, the Speaker of the United States House of
20 Representatives and each Senator and Representative
21 from California in the Congress of the United States.

