RESOLUTION NO. 2018-102

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
PROTECTING OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM
OFFSHORE DRILLING, EXPLORATION AND FRACKING

WHEREAS, the City of Albany and its visitors enjoy our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for
recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our city’s residents value our state’s ocean and coastal waters, which provide
habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a
healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic exploration off the Pacific coast put
these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil
spills, intense ocean noise, and other damage; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic exploration, fracking and
other well stimulation techniques threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health
and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters
and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same
coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has proposed to dramatically expand offshore oil
and gas leasing in all US oceans, including to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new
federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted in the Pacific
planning area since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the seismic testing that supports offshore oil and gas leasing is a highly
disruptive activity that has been shown to harm marine wildlife, from great whales to fish to
zooplankton, over large areas of ocean; and
WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as “fracking and other well stimulation,” provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, along with several cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the Pacific coast will deepen the state’s dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior develops and implements a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program that determines the size, timing and location of lease sales for the Outer Continental Shelf.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council supports (1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic oil and gas ‘exploration, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the Pacific coast, and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the Pacific Coast.

PEGGY MCQUAID, MAYOR

We direct staff to forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Acting Director Walter Cruickshank; Governor Jerry Brown; U. S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; U.S. Representative Lee; State Senator Skinner; and State Assembly member Thurmond.
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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 4th day of September, 2018, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, Nason, Pilch and Mayor McQuaid

NOES: None

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this

5th day of September, 2018.

Eileen Harrington
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambiance, responding to the needs of a diverse community, and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable community.