

**A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California,
Opposition to Oil Drilling in Hermosa Beach**

WHEREAS, the energy company E&B Natural Resources seeks to erect an 87-foot drilling rig and up to 34 oil/gas and wastewater injection wells on a 1.3-acre plot six blocks from the beach, hoping to extract up to 8,000 barrels of oil a day from underneath the seafloor under a 34-year leaseⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the voters of Hermosa will decide through a special election on March 3, 2015ⁱⁱ whether to repeal the existing oil drilling moratorium in the city; and

WHEREAS, the proposed oil drilling project would be precedent-setting with the potential to undermine the many environmental improvements that residents, environmental groups, municipalities, and many others have advanced over the past few decades throughout Los Angeles Countyⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling in Hermosa Beach poses significant risk to the entire Santa Monica Bay's health and vibrancy if an accident occurs, with the final, certified Environmental Impact Report identifying nine significant and unavoidable impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biology, hydrology, land use, noise, recreation, safety, and risk of upset (e.g. spills and explosions)^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act bars all new oil and gas leases in submerged tidal lands within State Waters^v; and

WHEREAS, there are no current oil drilling operations in or under the Santa Monica Bay^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, the state and local community have made significant investments to protect and enhance marine and coastal habitats in the Bay - such as the designation of Santa Monica Bay as a National Estuary; establishing marine protected areas in Malibu, Palos Verdes and Catalina Island; restoring Malibu Lagoon; restoring kelp forests in Santa Monica Bay; and the planned restoration of Ballona Wetlands - and an oil spill would directly undermine these restorative investments^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, the health of the Pacific Ocean is directly tied to the City of Manhattan Beach's economy, public health, and environment, with California's direct ocean economy generating \$39.1 billion of the state's GDP annually^{viii}; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant chance of an oil spill anywhere along the pipeline associated with the proposed project, and spills and ruptures could be caused by a variety of factors including geologic hazards, mechanical failure, structural failure, corrosion, or human error during operation^{ix}; and

WHEREAS, the rocky reef, deep canyon, and cobble and sand habitats, and beaches throughout the Santa Monica Bay are home to sensitive and protected marine life, including blue whales, juvenile white sharks, yelloweye rockfish, least terns, brown pelicans, and abalone^x; and

WHEREAS, oil spills have the potential to significantly impact marine life and habitats in the Santa Monica Bay and throughout the Southern California Bight, in part because they can spread rapidly over

great distances, and can be difficult to detect and cleanup, such as was seen with a relatively small oil spill from Chevron's oil marine terminal in El Segundo reaching from the South Bay to Malibu Lagoon^{xi}; and

WHEREAS, an oil spill in the Santa Monica Bay would be disastrous to the marine environment with significant and unavoidable impacts to residents and visitors who live near and recreate on Los Angeles County beaches, our local economy and tourism, water quality, and the health of marine life^{xii}; and

WHEREAS, history and experience tell us that the long-term impacts of oil spills are felt decades later through significant, adverse effects on native species and habitats and degradation of wildlife and habitats from the spill, cleanup, and remediation activities^{xiii};

WHEREAS, the West Basin service area depends heavily upon the West Coast Groundwater Basin for its potable water supply and the proposed oil drilling project would waste valuable water resources during an extreme drought in California, intending to use 375+ acre-feet, or 122,194,285.875 gallons of West Basin supplied recycled water per year during drilling of the production and injection wells^{xiv}; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach endorses a balanced approach to managing, sustaining, and protecting natural resources, including open space, water quality, and ocean health; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Manhattan Beach is opposed to oil drilling in Hermosa Beach.

Passed and adopted this ___ day of ____, 2014.

ⁱ Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed E&B Drilling and Oil Production Project, Certified July 2014, Section 2.0 Project Description, <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=755>

ⁱⁱ *Hermosa Beach Sets Vote to March 3 on E&B Natural Resources Oil Drilling Project*, Daily Breeze (July 23, 2014), <http://www.dailybreeze.com/business/20140723/hermosa-beach-vote-set-march-3-on-eb-natural-resources-oil-drilling-project>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, National Estuary Program Coastal Condition Report at 376(Jun. 2007), http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/upload/2007_05_09_oceans_nepccr_pdf_nepccr_nepccr_west_partg.pdf; see also *Long History of Protecting the Santa Monica Bay*, Bay Found., <http://www.santamonicabay.org/about-us/history/>; see also *California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*, Cal. Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/>; see also *Santa Monica Bay Kelp Project* <http://www.santamonicabay.org/InTheOcean/KelpProject.html>

^{iv} Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed E&B Drilling and Oil Production Project, Certified July 2014, <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=755>

^v Assemb. Comm. on Natural Res., Bill Analysis of AB 2444, 72d Sess. (Cal. 1994); Carl Ingram, *Offshore Oil Drilling Ban OKd by Senate*, L.A. Times (Aug. 28, 1994), http://articles.latimes.com/1994-08-28/news/mn-32266_1_offshore-oil-drilling; Cynthia Craft, *Ban on New Offshore Oil Drilling Signed*, L.A. Times (Sept. 29, 1994), http://articles.latimes.com/1994-09-29/news/mn-44385_1_offshore-oil-drilling

^{vi} *Governor opposes any new offshore oil drilling*, Malibu Times (April 13, 2005) http://www.malibutimes.com/news/article_b75a153e-5db6-5d94-8f5d-1721b2682219.html; see also Assemb. Comm. on Natural Res., Bill Analysis of AB 2444, 72d Sess. (Cal. 1994); Carl Ingram, *Offshore Oil Drilling Ban OKd by Senate*, L.A. Times (Aug. 28, 1994), http://articles.latimes.com/1994-08-28/news/mn-32266_1_offshore-oil-drilling; Cynthia Craft, *Ban on New Offshore Oil Drilling Signed*, L.A. Times (Sept. 29, 1994), http://articles.latimes.com/1994-09-29/news/mn-44385_1_offshore-oil-drilling

^{vii} U.S. Env'tl. Prot. Agency, National Estuary Program Coastal Condition Report at 376(Jun. 2007), http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/upload/2007_05_09_oceans_nepccr_pdf_nepccr_nepccr_west_partg.pdf; see also *Long History of Protecting the Santa Monica Bay*, Bay Found., <http://www.santamonicabay.org/about-us/history/>; see also *California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*, Cal. Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/>; see also *Santa Monica Bay Kelp Project* <http://www.santamonicabay.org/InTheOcean/KelpProject.html>

^{viii} State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies 2014: Coastal and Ocean Economic Summaries of the Coastal States, National Ocean Economics Program and Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies March 2014

^{ix} Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed E&B Drilling and Oil Production Project, Certified July 2014, , Section 4.0 Environmental Impact Analysis, <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=755>

^x See California Department of Fish and Wildlife MPA Literature <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/science1.asp>; see also Los Angeles Audubon <http://losangelesaudubon.org/>; see also California Grunion <http://grunion.pepperdine.edu/>; see also Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring <http://www.sccwrp.org/researchareas/RegionalMonitoring/BightRegionalMonitoring.aspx>; see also NOAA Office of Protected Resources <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/publications.htm>; see also Ocean Conservation Cetacean Ecology in Santa Monica Bay http://www.oceanconservation.org/research/publications_pdf/cetacean_ecology_in_smb.pdf; see also Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission State of the Bay Report http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/docs/sotb_report.pdf

^{xi} NOAA Office of Response and Restoration <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

^{xii} Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed E&B Drilling and Oil Production Project, Certified July 2014, Section 4.0 Environmental Impacts Analysis <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=755>

^{xiii} *Oil Plagues Sound 20 Years after Exxon Valdez*, MSNBC (March 24, 2009): http://www.nbcnews.com/id/29838444/ns/us_news-environment/t/oil-plagues-sound-years-after-exxon-valdez/#.VFFNojTF-bM; see also *Ten years later, echoes of Bouchard oil spill still felt*, SouthCoast Today (April 21, 2013): <http://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20130421/News/304210344#sthash.mlRAWWAe.dpuf>; see also *Four Years Later, Marine Life Still Feeling Significant Impacts From Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill* RedOrbit (April 18, 2014): <http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1113124753/deepwater-horizon-oil-spill-impact-marine-life-gulf-bp-041814/#4ixiMeEFJEMC1h4P.99>

^{xiv} Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed E&B Drilling and Oil Production Project, Certified July 2014 <http://www.hermosabch.org/index.aspx?page=755>; see also *West Basin Will Serve letters*