



City of Manhattan Beach

City Council

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February 6, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly, District 66
State Capitol, Room 2179
P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate, District 19
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
California State Senate, District 33
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Support for Assembly Bill No. 1775 and Senate Bill No. 834

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi, Senator Jackson, and Senator Lara:

On behalf of the City Council and residents of the City of Manhattan Beach, we want to thank you for your leadership on this very important matter. The City of Manhattan Beach supports Assembly Bill 1775 and Senate Bill 834 opposing the Federal Department of the Interior's proposed offshore oil and gas resource program.

The City of Manhattan Beach, as a member of the League of California Cities, is officially in support of Assembly Bill No. 1775 as well as Senate Bill No. 834. These companion Bills would prohibit the State Lands Commission and local trustees from entering into lease agreements for exploration or production of oil or natural gas in state regulated coastal waters, up to three miles from the coastline.

Offshore oil drilling directly threatens coastal communities and marine life with oil spills and toxic pollution. Leaks, spills and major accidents can happen at every stage of oil exploration, production and transportation. California's coastal economy – with tourism, recreation and fishing alone creating almost \$20 billion in annual revenues and 410,000 jobs – would be harmed by oil spills, pollution, and industrialization that come with offshore drilling. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and 2015 Refugio Beach oil spill, combined with several leaks over the decades from offshore platforms and affiliated undersea pipelines, have released more than four million gallons of oil into the Pacific Ocean. The 1969 and 2015 accidents alone impacted more than 90 miles of pristine coastline, affected at least 935 square miles of ocean, and caused economic losses from fishery closures and lost recreational opportunities. The 2015 Refugio oil spill even reached Manhattan Beach's shores, resulting in beach closures with an

eight-mile stretch of South Bay beaches from El Segundo south to Torrance Beach closed as a result of the oil washing up on our shoreline threatening both human and wildlife health.

Oil drilling also worsens climate change, ocean acidification, and rising sea levels by deepening our dependence on fossil fuels and delaying our transition to clean energy. Burning fossil fuels in the areas included in the proposed federal plan would contribute 49.5 gigatons of carbon dioxide pollution, the equivalent of the emissions from 10.6 billion cars driven for a year.

Most Californians strongly oppose offshore drilling, thus, California leaders have prevented federal offshore leasing here since 1984. More locally, in March 2015 our neighboring city, Hermosa Beach, demonstrated our local South Bay's overwhelming opposition to oil drilling when 80% of Hermosa Beach voters voted against Measure O, which would have allowed for oil drilling in their city. In addition, the City of Manhattan Beach passed a resolution in 2015 opposing Measure O, citing the risk of oil spills in Santa Monica Bay.

Supporting Assembly Bill No. 1775 and Senate Bill No. 834 is consistent with the public's sentiments as well as the City's 2015 Strategic Plan objective that states,

"The residents of Manhattan Beach place a high value on a healthy, outdoor, and recreational life style and are committed to protecting the environment of their beautiful coastal community. The City recognizes its leadership role in environmental stewardship and works to create a built environment that compliments the natural environment. Manhattan Beach is recognized for its progressive environmental stewardship and healthy community initiatives. A healthy and active lifestyle is accessible for residents because the City is safe, sustainable and resilient."

For these reasons the City of Manhattan Beach appreciates your leadership efforts and affirms its support of Assembly Bill No. 1775 and Senate Bill No. 834.

Sincerely,

Amy Howorth
Mayor
City of Manhattan Beach

cc: The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, President of the Senate
The Honorable Senator Kevin de León, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly