

MEASURE A
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ - ORDINANCE OPPOSING
OIL AND GAS DRILLING OFF THE COAST
OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
(Full Text of Ordinance)

The people of the City of Santa Cruz do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The title of this Ordinance shall be: Ordinance Opposing Oil and Gas Drilling off the Coast of Central and Northern California.

SECTION 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is:

1. To express strong opposition to any oil or gas drilling off the coast of Central or Northern California.

2. To enable the Santa Cruz City Council to take strong and effective action to oppose such oil and gas drilling.

SECTION 3. Findings.

The people of the City of Santa Cruz make the following findings:

1. Potential Adverse Community Impacts of Oil Drilling Off the Coast of Central and/or Northern California:

a. Environment Degradation

1) Environmental studies designed to evaluate the potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and extraction activities on sensitive marine and coastal resources are not yet complete. Until these studies are completed, it is impossible to weigh the risks of offshore oil development against the potential royalties or energy benefits.

2) Environmental impact reports prepared to assess the effects of offshore drilling actually predict large scale oilspills. In addition to the massive destruction of marine life, spills could reach the shoreline, destroying habitat and reducing or eliminating seabird and other animal populations.

3) The California sea otter is protected as a threatened species. Drilling and the associated spill potential could render this animal extinct - particularly because of the otter's sensitivity to oiling of its fur.

4) Oil spill containment technologies do not exist for sea conditions with waves or swells exceeding seven feet, a common occurrence off-shore of Northern and Central California. Spills could not effectively be directed away from sensitive estuaries and bays where oil contamination would have the most devastating and long-lasting impacts.

b. Effects on the Santa Cruz Economy

1) Tourism is the City's largest industry and provides a large and growing base for many of the City's secondary industries. The quality of the City's beaches is the prime factor in the success of the tourist industry and oil and gas development anywhere off Central or Northern California could have a disastrous effect on City beaches and the tourist industry.

2) Oil spills reaching the shoreline would leave tar on the City beaches. Even the small spills at Moss Landing have resulted in increased fatalities of marine birds and mammals, leaving carcasses to rot on City beaches.

3) Both fishing and agriculture continue to play an important role in the economy of the City of Santa Cruz and the rest of Santa Cruz County. Oil and gas exploration and extraction are in direct conflict with the local fishing industry. Degraded air quality resulting from oil and gas extraction activities causes fallout which reduces the quality and quantity of local agricultural production and associated processing industries.

c. Impact of Onshore Facilities

1) Support facilities for offshore oil and gas development cannot be accommodated in the City of Santa Cruz. The City's Local Coastal Plans contain no sites designated for heavy coastal dependent industries (the classification for onshore support facilities associated with offshore oil development). Any site in the City would have disastrous effects on the local economy and environment.

2. Problems in Department of the Interior Plans for Oil and Gas Exploration and Extraction

a. As exemplified in the five-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Plans, the Federal Department of the Interior has:

1) Attempted to accelerate and increase oil and gas drilling before adequate environmental studies have been completed;

2) Not seriously considered adverse regional economic impacts;

3) Granted excessive authority to the Secretary of the Interior;

4) Reduced the input of local agencies into final leasing decisions; and

5) Failed to consider the laws, goals and policies, of the State of California as required by the OCS Land Act.

SECTION 4. Implementation

1. Within one month of the Certification of the November 5, 1985 Municipal Election, the Santa Cruz City Council shall request the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Governor of the

State of California and Federal and State Legislative Representatives of the City of Santa Cruz to take whatever actions may be within their power to prevent the inclusion of waters off the Northern and Central California coastline as sites for well drilling in the five year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, to overturn the five year OCS Plan for this area, and to include local government positions in any comments or review on this issue.

2. No zoning changes to accommodate onshore support facilities for offshore oil or gas drilling shall be enacted without a vote of the people of the City of Santa Cruz.

3. The Santa Cruz City Council shall use its resources to organize and help coordinate the efforts of other coastal governments to prevent oil and gas drilling off the coast of Central and Northern California.

4. The Santa Cruz City Council shall take any further steps within its legal powers to prevent oil and/or gas drilling off the coast of Northern or Central California.

SECTION 5. Severability

If any provisions of this Ordinance are held to be invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by Section 4013 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON THE CITY
OF THE ORDINANCE OPPOSING OIL AND GAS DRILLING
OFF THE COAST OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
By the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Santa Cruz

This ordinance would require the City Council to take action to oppose any oil or gas drilling off the coast of Central and Northern California including:

1. Requesting federal and state officials to exclude the Central and Northern California coastlines from the Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
2. Submitting any zoning change which would accommodate onshore support facilities to a city-wide vote.
3. Organizing and coordinating efforts of other coastal governments to oppose oil and gas drilling.

Adoption of this ordinance is expected to result in no material increase in cost to the City.

s/ Robert J. Shepherd
Director of Finance
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

For a number of years, opposition of all segments of our community--from the tourist industry to those active in their concern for the environment--has prevented oil drilling off the Santa Cruz coast.

Acting on this concern, the City Council belongs to an organization of coastal governments monitoring this situation closely, has provided testimony and resolutions for numerous legislative committees, and, along with others, pressed a lawsuit that prevented exploratory drilling off the Santa Cruz coast--which would have begun this past June.

Despite such opposition, the federal and state administrations are interested in opening up portions of our coast to the oil companies. A tentative settlement recently reached in Washington might protect our coast for a few years. If the oil companies have their way, even this will not be enacted into law.

There could be severe local impacts:

- * Oil spills could spoil the scenic beaches that form the backbone of our tourist industry.
- * The California sea otter population could be completely jeopardized.
- * Air quality would be impacted by the petroleum-driven motors of the oil rigs.
- * On-shore support facilities would dramatically change the nature of our economy.

Measure "A" takes a strong position against drilling off the Santa Cruz coast, and would prevent any zoning change for on-shore support facilities until such a change is approved by a vote of the people.

A strong, unified statement will be heard in Washington and Sacramento. Whether there are attempts to open our coast for drilling next year, or in fifteen years, passage of Measure "A" would allow Santa Cruz voters to decide whether environmental and economic safeguards are adequate.

Send a loud message to those who would threaten our coast, and let them know that they cannot proceed until they convince local voters of the wisdom of their plans. Vote "Yes" on Measure "A".

s/ Mardi Wormhoudt, Mayor
Santa Cruz City Council

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED

11/85