

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: November 17, 2009
AGENDA ITEM NO. 24.

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Public Hearing

County Administrator's Signature 

Subject:

Adoption of a Resolution Regarding Oil and Gas Drilling in Florida's Waters.

Department:

County Administrator's Office

Staff Member Responsible:

 Elithia V. Stanfield, Assistant County Administrator

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR SUCH EXPLORATION AND RECOMMENDING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ESTABLISH A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE SHORT AND LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS OF OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

Summary Explanation/Background:

At the November 3, 2009 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted its 2010 State Legislative Program that included as a priority position the opposition of efforts to allow offshore oil and gas drilling in any area in the Eastern Planning Area that is within 125 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida. The Board's position statement also supported the establishment of a special task force or study committee to study the short and long term implications of oil and gas drilling and other alternative energy sources including effects on the economy of the state and its local governments, coastal communities, and fish and wildlife with a report of the findings to a future session of the Florida Legislature.

The Board has been requested by our local municipal partners, constituents, and others to adopt a resolution reflecting its position on the matter. Although the Board adopted a resolution in 2006 regarding oil development leasing in Florida waters, it was specifically directed toward federal proposals. The attached resolution reflects activities occurring under the auspices of the Florida Legislature.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

N/A

Exhibits/Attachments Attached.

Resolution/Ordinance Review Form
Resolution

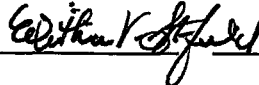

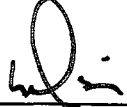

RESOLUTION REVIEW FORM

Type of Resolution or Ordinance: Proposed Resolution Opposing the Approval of Oil and Gas Drilling in Florida's Waters in Areas Other Than Those Already Approved for Such Exploration and Recommending the Florida Legislature Establish a Special Task Force to Study the Short and Long Term Implications of Oil and Gas Drilling and Other Alternative Energy Sources.

Estimated Revenue or Expenditure: N/A

Available Budget: N/A

The attached documentation is submitted for your review and comment. Upon finalization of your review, please complete this Review Form below and forward to the next Review Authority on the list.

<u>REVIEW AUTHORITY</u>	<u>REVIEW DATE</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>COMMENTS ADDRESSED ORIGINATOR'S INITIALS & DATE</u>
<u>Originating Department</u> County Administrator Elithia V. Stanfield	<u>10/30/09</u>	<u></u>	_____	_____
<u>Other Using Department</u> Convention & Visitors Bureau D. T. Minich	<u>10/30/09</u>	<u></u>	_____	_____
<u>Other Using Department</u> Environmental Management Will Davis	<u>11/3/09</u>	<u></u>	_____	_____
<u>Asst. County Administrator</u> Elithia V. Stanfield	_____	_____	_____	_____
<u>County Attorney</u> Dennis Long	<u>11/3/09</u>	<u></u>	_____	_____

Please return to County Administrator's by November 3, 2009. All inquiries should be made to Elithia V. Stanfield, at ext. 43485. Thank you.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-_____

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR SUCH EXPLORATION AND RECOMMENDING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ESTABLISH A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE SHORT AND LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS OF OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry, which resulted in more that 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which period tourism generated over \$4 billion dollars in taxable sales; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches, and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Pinellas County drew more than 13.6 million total tourists, with more than 5.1 million overnight tourists generating an economic impact of more than \$6.6 billion dollars and over \$26 million dollars in tourist development tax revenues, while employing over 83,000 people in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourism; and

WHEREAS, 95% of Pinellas County tourists cite the beaches as one of the top reasons they come to Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Pinellas County learned how environmentally and economically destructive an oil spill can be when a vessel collision at the entrance to Tampa Bay resulted in a spill of more than 300,000 gallons that reached Pinellas beaches as far away as 14 miles and resulted in a 45% drop in tourism; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County understands the need to search for newer and cleaner alternative forms of energy and is a willing partner to examine all options to secure the nation's energy needs which do not unduly threaten our economic and natural resource vitality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY that the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners opposes allowing offshore oil and gas drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities, and urges the Florida Legislature to establish a special task force or study committee to evaluate the short and long term implications of oil and gas drilling and other alternative energy sources, including effects on the economy of the state and its local governments, coastal communities, and fish and wildlife, and report the findings to a future session of the Florida Legislature.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call the vote was:

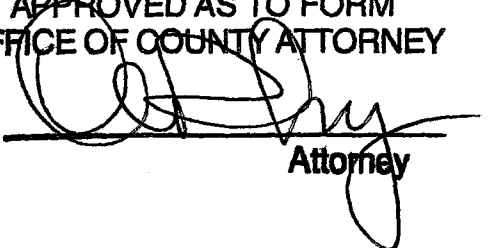
AYES

NAYS

Absent and not voting

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. S. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney