

RESOLUTION 2018-01

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION BY THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND IN FEDERAL COURT LITIGATION BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROJECT TO CHALLENGE THE PERMITTING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING IN ATLANTIC COASTAL WATERS, INCLUDING WATERS OFF CHARLESTON COUNTY AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST

WHEREAS, heretofore the Federal Government has removed the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from any plans for offshore oil drilling, and has denied drilling permit applications for seismic air gun survey testing, citing environmental harms and coastal community concerns, and

WHEREAS, seismic testing companies have challenged the permit denials to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and DOI has remanded the permit denials to the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM); and

WHEREAS, the effect of the remand revives the possibility of offshore drilling in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 4, 2018, the Federal Government published a proposal to permit drilling in most U.S. continental-shelf waters, including the Atlantic OCS, the effect of which would open the waters off of South Carolina, the City of Charleston, County of Charleston and the Town of James Island to seismic air gun surveying, and oil and gas exploration; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Environmental Law Project (SCELP) has proposed to litigate the current actions of the Federal Government, to include the granting of permits in waters off South Carolina for seismic air gun surveying and oil and gas exploration on the grounds of environmental harm, economic damage and community opposition; and

WHEREAS, SCELP has enlisted the involvement and support of coastal municipalities to join the litigation under an arrangement whereby SCELP and its attorneys would represent the municipalities in the litigation without any expense, attorneys' fees, or other financial contribution or commitment by the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island Council deems it is in the best interests of the Town of James Island and its citizens for the Town to participate in this litigation effort by the SCELP in order to protect the pristine Atlantic coastline and the economic advantages that the Town of James Island and the State of South Carolina derive from a coastline free of environmental degradation.

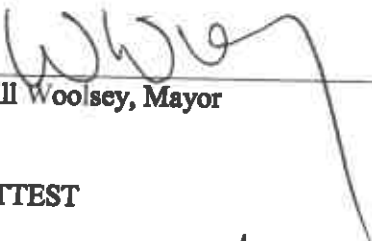
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF JAMES ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Section 1: That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made part of this reference;

Section 2: That the Town of James Island join in the SCELP litigation challenging the granting of permits for seismic air gun surveying and other oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic OCS and other environmentally protected areas, such participation being conditioned on no expense to the Town of James Island, to include any attorneys' fees or other financial involvement or commitment by the Town of James Island; and

Section 3: That the Mayor and/or Town Attorney be authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of James Island such documents as may be required to allow the Town to participate as a party in the SCELP litigation under the terms and conditions as set forth herein;

Section 4: This Resolution to become effective upon its adoption and approval. Enacted this the 18th day of January 2018.



Bill Woolsey, Mayor

ATTEST



Frances Simmons, Town Clerk