CITY OF MARCO ISLAND
RESOLUTION 2010-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARCO ISLAND OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND SPECIFICALLY OPPOSING ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW NEAR-SHORE DRILLING WITHIN TEN POINT THREE FIVE MILES OFF OF THE FLORIDA COAST; URGING FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FORM OF SUPPORT OR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF ANY SUCH FUTURE LEGISLATION AND TO VOTE IN OPPOSITION OF SUCH LEGISLATION; REQUESTING GOVERNOR CRIST TO ADVISE THE HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP DURING THE 2010 REGULAR SESSION THAT HE DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY SUCH FUTURE LEGISLATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Marco Island is opposed to offshore and near-shore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there is on-going discussion and concern that the Florida State Legislature may, during the 2010 Regular Legislative Session, consider legislation which would specifically allow near-shore oil and natural gas drilling within ten point three five miles off the west coast of Florida from the Apalachicola area in the Florida Panhandle south to the area of Key West; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marco Island is an island community located on the west coast of Florida and the potential damage to Marco Island's beaches and mangrove coastline should a spill or accident occur would not only be devastating to the tourism, environment, plant and fish life of Florida's west coast, but the cleanup costs of such spill or accident would be disastrous to the City of Marco Island; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marco Island cherishes its pristine beaches that are critical for marine turtle nesting and shore bird nesting including that of threatened species such as the Snowy Plover and Least Tern;

WHEREAS, mangroves and sea grass beds adjacent to our inshore estuaries are essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries and would be impossible to clean should an oil spill occur; and

WHEREAS, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over the lifetime of the oil rig. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food system and may contaminate local beaches and have serious negative effects on the environment and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the location of offshore and near-shore drilling rigs and related infrastructure such as drilling platforms would adversely impact the view from the beaches on Marco Island causing detrimental impacts to its tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, there are no reasonable assurances that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions of oil rigs or during storm catastrophes from foreseeable hurricanes and other natural and man made disasters; and

SECTION 6. Recordation Required. This Resolution shall be recorded in the Minutes of this Board and filed with the Marco Island City Clerk's Office.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 19th day of April 2010.

Attest:

By: _____
Laura M. Litzan, City Clerk
(SEAL)

CITY OF MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA

By: _____
Frank R. Recker, Chairman

Reviewed for legal sufficiency:

By: _____
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney