

MAY 12 2026



**CITY OF CARLSBAD  
AGENDA BRIEFING  
MEMORANDUM**

Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                         |                         |
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| <b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Executive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>BY:</b> Wendy Austin | <b>DATE:</b> 05/06/2026 |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b><br>Consider Approval of Resolution 2026-34, a Resolution in support of H.R. 7882 - To provide for the Leasing of Certain Deposits of Minerals Located Within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico — Introduced During the 119th Congress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |                         |
| <b>BACKGROUND, ANALYSIS AND IMPACT:</b> (Safety and Welfare/Financial/Personnel/Infrastructure/etc.)<br><br>The attached resolution supports H. R. 7882, which was introduced during the 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress. H. R. 7882 would amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, and specifically Federal Code Part 3100-Oil and Gas, Section 3100.3-Authority, Part (a)(2)(iii), to allow the BLM to lease Federal minerals that are underlying incorporated cities, towns, and villages. Currently, the BLM is not permitted to lease minerals that are underlying incorporated cities, towns, and villages. In most instances, these minerals would be extracted through horizontal drilling.<br><br>Attached: (1) Resolution (2) H. R. 7882, (3) Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (4) Federal Code 3100-Oil and Gas |                         |                         |
| <b>DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                         |                         |
| <b>BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ACTION:</b><br>-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                         |                         |
| <b>Reviewed by:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                         |                         |
| City Manager: Wendy D Austin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         | Date: May 7, 2026       |

**Attachments:**

1. Res 2026-34 HR 7882 - Mineral Leasing
2. BILLS-119hr7882ih
3. Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as Amended
4. 43 CFR Part 3100 (up to date as of 5-04-2026)

**CITY OF CARLSBAD, NM**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-34**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H. R. 7882 – TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEASING OF CERTAIN  
DEPOSITS OF MINERALS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO -  
INTRODUCED DURING THE 119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

WHEREAS, H. R. 7882 was introduced during the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and is titled, *To provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico*, and

WHEREAS, H. R. 7882 was introduced by Representative Pete Stauber (R-MN) and is cosponsored by Representative Wesley Hunt (R-TX) and Representative August Pfluger (R-TX), and

WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (as amended) and per Federal Code Part 3100-Oil and Gas Leasing, Section 3100.3-Authority, Part (a)(2)(iii), prohibits the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from leasing federal minerals underlying “incorporated cities, towns, and villages,” and

WHEREAS, these restrictions were logical when vertical drilling was the exclusive method for oil and gas extraction; but, with technological advancements in oil and gas extraction, including the development of horizontal drilling, this outdated prohibition is unnecessary, and

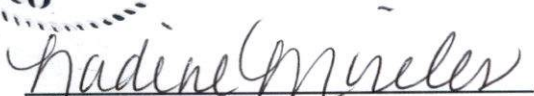
WHEREAS, H. R. 7882 would remedy this outdated prohibition, thereby unlocking a material source of revenue for the federal government and generating additional economic activity for the City of Carlsbad and the surrounding area, and

WHEREAS, the City of Carlsbad has robust local protections, through oil and gas ordinances, and supports safe drilling both within and outside the municipal boundaries, and particularly horizontal drilling outside the municipal boundaries for the purpose of reaching minerals within the City boundaries.

**NOW THEREFORE**, to prevent waste and to maximize the development of oil and gas minerals within the municipal boundaries of the City of Carlsbad, the Carlsbad City Council supports H. R. 7882 and urges all members of Congress to vote in favor of H. R. 7882.

APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CARLSBAD  
THIS TWELFTH (12<sup>TH</sup>) DAY OF MAY, 2026

CITY OF CARLSBAD

  
By: Richard D Lopez, Mayor  
Nadine Mireles, City Clerk