

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION CONVEYING TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO’S UNWAVERING OPPOSITION TO OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE CENTRAL COAST FIELD OFFICE PLANNING AREA

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, the Central Coast Field Office (CCFO) of the United States Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers public lands in several California counties, including Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, and parts of Fresno, Merced, and San Joaquin counties, which, combined, totals approximately 284,000 acres of public land and an additional 509,000 acres of federal mineral estates; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, BLM approved a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a potential resource management plan (RMP) amendment that would have made nearly all federal mineral estates in the CCFO planning area available for oil and gas leasing, but the EIS and RMP were challenged in court and, as a result of that legal challenge, BLM agreed to prepare a supplemental EIS (SEIS) to analyze project alternatives for the RMP amendment; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2025, BLM published notice in the Federal Register (A2407-014-004-065516; #O2412-014-004-047181.1) of its intent to prepare the SEIS and a potential RMP amendment for the CCFO, which "...will analyze the impacts of oil and gas leasing and development on BLM-managed public land and mineral estate in the CCFO;" and

WHEREAS, the draft SEIS will provide an analysis of the project alternatives outlined in the 2019 proposed RMP amendment and final EIS; and

WHEREAS, the CCFO proposed 2019 RMP amendment and final EIS adopted as the approved project an alternative not identified in the draft EIS, which project would have identified nearly all federal mineral estates in the CCFO, including in San Mateo County and other Bay Area counties, as open to oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS, the County reasonably believes that additional federal property within and adjacent to San Mateo County and along its coastline could be converted to BLM's jurisdiction through actions of the President and/or Congress or be added to the potential RMP amendment for the CCFO, including, without limitation, public lands in San Mateo County currently owned by the National Park Service or BLM-managed lands in the vicinity of Davenport immediately south of San Mateo County, which include the Cotani Coast Dairies National Monument, approximately ten miles south of the location of the Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area, a sea lion breeding area lying within the boundaries of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the San Gregorio earthquake fault is located close to the shore near BLM-managed land where it intersects with Highway 1 at the northernmost boundary of BLM-managed property, and it is known or reasonably believed that hydraulic fracturing

(fracking), wastewater injection, and other “enhanced oil recovery” methods have been a cause of induced earthquakes in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, both Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and the entire San Mateo County coast is within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which harbors an incredible variety of marine life, including at least 36 species of marine mammals, 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, 525 species of fishes, and an abundance of invertebrates and algae; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and compatible human use, and activities that could harm the sanctuary's ecosystem health, such as exploring for, developing, or producing oil, gas, or minerals are prohibited by sanctuary regulations; and

WHEREAS, the impact of oil and gas development and related onshore facilities along the coast in areas within or near San Mateo County would be adverse for residents and the environment of San Mateo County, including, but not limited to, transportation accidents along shared roadways, explosions at storage facilities that could severely and adversely impact environmental resources within San Mateo County through wind drift, ocean current transportation, degradation of shared habitats for rare and endangered species, and other mechanisms both economic and ecological; and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously identified the value of the San Mateo County coast threatened by oil and gas drilling activities, including in Resolution No. 075671, which was adopted in 2018 in opposition to offshore drilling and stated, in part,

that “...the San Mateo County coast encompasses a treasure trove of exquisite landscapes on the 40-mile stretch from Pacifica to the northern boundary of Santa Cruz County. The coastline’s rich mosaic includes prehistoric fossils, a 19th century lighthouse, historic ranch structures, and other features reflecting human uses of both terrestrial and marine environments, as well as stunning natural views”; and

WHEREAS, separate from BLM’s potential RMP amendment for the CCFO, the federal government is also examining whether to lease federal lands offshore of San Mateo County’s coast for purposes of permitting oil and gas drilling; and

WHEREAS, ships transporting oil and gas can have significant adverse impacts on marine life, including whale strikes, water and noise pollution, and the transport of non-native invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County coastline and offshore areas pose significant hazards for marine vessels, such as rocky outcroppings, offshore reefs and sandbars, dense fog, dangerous currents, and immense waves, and vessel groundings can crush marine habitat and organisms, release hazardous chemicals, and discharge other hazards to marine life; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the San Mateo County coast consists of rural agricultural lands and wilderness areas with rugged terrain, redwood forests, and sensitive habitats, with limited roadway, water, and sewer infrastructure, making it unsuitable for onshore oil and gas facilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors conveys to BLM its unwavering opposition to oil and gas development along the coast of California, including, but not limited to, within and

adjacent to San Mateo County, and that it hereby enters this objection to any evaluation, or permitting by BLM or other federal agencies for these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors conveys to BLM the request of San Mateo County that all adverse environmental effects, including related economic and social effects, to the lands and waters of San Mateo County, both onshore and offshore, and the impacts of possible induced seismic activity related to fault lines in the area of BLM-managed lands in San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County, be included within the scope of, and meaningfully analyzed in, BLM's proposed SEIS as described in Federal Register notice A2407-014-004-065516; #O2412-014-004-047181.1.

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