

RESOLUTION NO. .

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

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RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING, EXPLORATION AND FRACKING.

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

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo and its visitors enjoy California's beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, 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, our San Mateo County residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific coast put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking and other well stimulation techniques threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is considering allowing offshore oil and gas leasing in new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted off the coast of California since 1984; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as “fracking and other well stimulation,” provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction off California’s coast; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the state of California prohibits new oil and gas leasing in state waters due to the unacceptably high risk damage and disruption to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the California Attorney General, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, along with several cities have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the California coast will undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County supports (1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.

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