

RESOLUTION NO. 21-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT PROTECTING OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

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

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

WHEREAS, in California, hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean water, oil-free beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations, threatening the lives and livelihoods of small business owners, particularly commercial and recreational fisherman; 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 May 2015, a pipeline ruptured near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County and spilled oil into the Pacific Ocean, with oil reaching as far south as Orange County, damaging wildlife, closing beaches, and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, a major spill off Huntington Beach in October 2021 dumped a significant amount of oil into our coastal waters, resulting in beach closures, impacts to recreational and commercial activities, and significant environmental and economic damage; and

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

WHEREAS, the Governor of California, the State Senate, the State Lands Commission, and 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 drilling; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling off the California coast will deepen the state's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the San Mateo County Harbor District does hereby resolve as follows:

a) The San Mateo County Harbor District supports (1) a permanent 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.

b) The Deputy Board Secretary shall forward a copy of this Resolution to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, California Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and

Alex Padilla, as well as U.S. Congressional and state representatives for the San Mateo County Harbor District and any other interested parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the San Mateo County Harbor District at a regular meeting thereof held on the 17th day of November, 2021.

For: Chang Kiraly, Reyring, Mattusch, Zemke

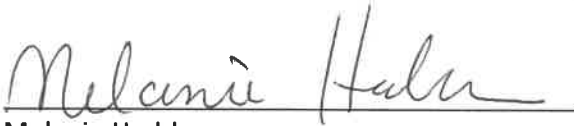
Against: None

Absent: Larenas

Abstention: None

Attested

BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS



Melanie Hadden  
Deputy Secretary



Virginia Chang Kiraly  
President