[A resolution supporting H.R. 1712 and S 880 which intend to expand the boundaries of the
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine
Sanctuary]

Resolution supporting H.R. 1712 and S 880 which intends to expand the boundaries of
the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National
Marine Sanctuary.

WHEREAS, The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) was
established in 1981 and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary was established in
1987 to protect the marine environment in general and the area's 26 species of marine
mammals and 13 species of breeding seabirds in particular; and,

WHEREAS, These marine environments have national and international significance,
exceed the biological productivity of tropical rain forests, support high levels of biological
diversity, and are easily susceptible to damage from human activities; and,

WHEREAS, Since the 1980's, oil spills and scientific investigation have made it clear
that to accomplish this protection, a unified ecologically based protection plan needed to
encompass a larger area that was originally set aside; and,

WHEREAS, Now 33 marine mammal species use this area and over half of these
mammals are threatened or endangered; and,

WHEREAS, Area populations of these species are healthy, increasing and continually
seen further north and west of the original GFNMS and CBNMS boundaries and,

WHEREAS, GFNMS has the first or second largest population of Blue and Humpback
Whales in the world and these whales use areas north of the GFNMS boundary; and,

WHEREAS, the Bodega Canyon, a unique geological feature that is proposed to
be added to the CBNMS, is believed to be key to the coast's high biological
productivity; and
WHEREAS, Scientific research is continually revealing the importance of estuaries as nurseries for aquatic species and migration corridors for threatened and endangered salmon; and,

WHEREAS, Currently, the important estuaries of the Russian and Gualala Rivers are not in GFNMS jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS, It has become clear that when natural perturbations occur, such as El Nino and La Nina, whales, seabirds, fish and other marine mammals move north of the existing GFNMS and CBNMS boundary of protection and study; and,

WHEREAS, Advances in petroleum extraction and the oil industry’s (and Administration’s) push toward opening new reserves, make it necessary that the GFNMS and CBNMS boundaries be extended into deeper waters to protect marine resources; and

WHEREAS, Changes in some of the Sanctuaries’ boundaries are also needed to facilitate boundary identification for mariners, fishers and law enforcement personnel and to promote research in escarpment areas; and,

WHEREAS, The GFNMS currently comprises 933 square nautical miles and the boundary adjustment would add another 861 square nautical miles and CBNMS comprises 399 square nautical miles and would add 233 square nautical miles, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports H.R. 1712 and S 880, proposed bills that would expand the boundaries of the GFNMS and CBNMS westward (to protect against deep water offshore oil drilling) and northward to the Gualala River, thereby permanently protecting the entire Sonoma Coast against oil spills and other forms of pollution and providing an additional buffer for the City and County of San Francisco’s coastline.

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Resolution supporting H.R. 1712 and S880 which intends to expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

May 17, 2005  Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on May 17, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom