[Supporting the Protection of Designated National Marine Sanctuaries]

Resolution supporting the protection of designated National Marine Sanctuaries, along the California coast, against the threat of offshore oil exploration and drilling.

WHEREAS, The coast and offshore waters of the City and County of San Francisco are among our nation's greatest national treasures; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay coastline receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and is a driving force in our tourist economy; and

WHEREAS, Many of San Francisco’s and surrounding counties’ fishing and maritime recreation industries are wholly dependent on waters that are safeguarded from pollution; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Farallones, Monterey Bay and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries border the San Francisco Bay and contribute to a vibrant and productive Northern and Central California coastline; and

WHEREAS, The headquarters of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is located at San Francisco’s own Crissy Field; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a long history of coastal protection, and its citizens have played a major role in the creation of the state’s Coastal Act, the nation’s pioneering coastal protection legislation; and

WHEREAS, These waters are currently protected against pollution and seabed destruction through designation beginning in 1981 as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of the Gulf of the Farallones (now Greater Farallones) and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries was also twice supported by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 2005 and 2011 (Resolution Nos. 050839 and 111252), banning...
offshore drilling along that stretch of coast; and

WHEREAS, Issues regarding the expansion of the two Sanctuaries were thoroughly examined in 2008 in a hearing of the Fish, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee, and resulted in the unanimous vote of the U.S. House for expansion; and

WHEREAS, The designation of the expansion areas under the National Marine Sanctuary Act provided the opportunity for citizen input through public meetings and more than a thousand public comments over a two year period; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order on April 28th implementing an “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”, which prevents the Secretary of Commerce from designating or expanding any National Marine Sanctuary, except under narrow circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Trump Administration has further ordered a review of National Marine Sanctuaries designated in the last 10 years with the apparent goal of opening these waters to offshore oil exploration and drilling; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco would join Mendocino, Marin and Sonoma counties in passing resolutions to protect California’s National Marine Sanctuary designations, in light of the April 28th Executive Order; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds that a review of Sanctuary designations would create unnecessary economic uncertainty and is in disregard to the efforts of fisherman, residents, recreational users, researchers, state and local governments, and others who participated in the process that led to the Sanctuary designation and related protections; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a review of Sanctuary designations could put such Sanctuaries at risk and lead to an erosion of environmental protections on the California coast; and, be it

Supervisors Fewer; Peskin, Yee, Kim, Ronen, Tang, Safai
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all citizens of the county and state to stand with them in support of the current designation of the expansion areas of the Greater Farallones and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and in opposition to any new policies that weaken the benefits and protections they bring; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors condemns the President's Executive Order and urges the federal Departments of the Interior and Commerce to, in their review of National Marine Sanctuaries, protect the existing boundaries of these designations and guard against offshore drilling along the productive and vibrant California coast; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as representatives Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Assembly Member David Chiu, Senator Scott Wiener, and Assembly Member Phil Ting.
Resolution supporting the protection of designated National Marine Sanctuaries, along the California coast, against the threat of offshore oil exploration and drilling.

June 27, 2017 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy and Yee
Excused: 1 - Tang

File No. 170770

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/27/2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

7/7/2017