

1 [Supporting the Protection of Designated National Marine Sanctuaries]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, The expansion of the Gulf of the Farallones (now Greater Farallones) and  
24 Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries was also twice supported by the San Francisco  
25 Board of Supervisors in 2005 and 2011 (Resolution Nos. 050839 and 111252), banning

1 offshore drilling along that stretch of coast; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all  
2 citizens of the county and state to stand with them in support of the current designation of the  
3 expansion areas of the Greater Farallones and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries  
4 and in opposition to any new policies that weaken the benefits and protections they bring;  
5 and, be it

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

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
12 Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, and the National Oceanic and  
13 Atmospheric Administration, as well as representatives Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator  
14 Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Assembly Member David Chiu, Senator Scott  
15 Wiener, and Assembly Member Phil Ting.

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