

1 [Oil Drilling Activities]

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3 Resolution urging Venoco Inc. and other petroleum and energy interests to not increase their
4 oil drilling activities off the California coast by resuming drilling from Platform Grace, or other
5 expansions, and to issue a public statement confirming this action.

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7 WHEREAS, it has long been the concern and vocation of the City and County of San
8 Francisco to protect the health of its citizens, area wildlife, and the environment; and,

9 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is committed to defending
10 California's irreplaceable coasts; and,

11 WHEREAS, opposition to additional drilling off the coast of California has been strongly
12 expressed by community, conservation, environmental, and homeowners organizations and
13 numerous elected officials; and,

14 WHEREAS, the 1969 blowout of Platform Alpha off of the coast of Santa Barbara
15 spilled three million gallons of oil that impacted 800 square miles of ocean and coated 35
16 miles of coastline with oil up to six inches thick that killed over 3,600 seabirds, suffocated
17 dolphins and seals, killed innumerable fish, and devastated kelp forests; and,

18 WHEREAS, numerous oil spills occur every year in the U.S., many of which have far
19 exceeded that of 1969 in magnitude and consequences; and,

20 WHEREAS, recent tragic events on the Gulf Coast further emphasize the susceptibility
21 of offshore petroleum facilities to natural disasters; and,

22 WHEREAS, current economic circumstances have led to increased desire on the part
23 of oil companies to increase their activities off the Pacific coast; and,

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1 WHEREAS, activities in the Congress of the United States begin to encroach up the
2 moratorium on offshore drilling, and threaten the authority of California to regulate her own
3 coastline; and,

4 WHEREAS, Venoco Inc. has publicly stated in media reports and S.E.C. filings that it is
5 considering resuming oil drilling from Platform Grace off of the Pacific coast – which is exempt
6 from the Federal moratorium that prohibits the establishment of new offshore oil and gas
7 drilling; and,

8 WHEREAS, over the last two years Platform Gail, adjacent to Grace, also operated by
9 Venoco Inc., has experienced at least one spill and has had numerous violations of
10 environmental, health, and safety codes; and,

11 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco must protect the coast for
12 generations to come in order to protect the region's quality of life, the environment, and public
13 health; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco County hereby urges
15 Venoco Inc. and other petroleum and energy interests to not increase their oil drilling activities
16 off the California coast by resuming drilling from Platform Grace, or other expansions, and to
17 issue a public statement confirming this action.

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