

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-_____
RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OPPOSING REVIEW OF DESIGNATIONS OF GREATER FARALLONES
AND CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

WHEREAS, the Coast of Marin County is one of the treasures of the nation, with one of the most western points of the continental United States, creating a diverse coastal ecosystem, whose riches support giant kelp forests, 36 species of marine mammals, migrating salmon and hundreds of other forms of sea life; and

WHEREAS, the Marin County Coast and its beaches receive approximately 5 million visitors a year and are a driving force in our tourist economy; and

WHEREAS, our county's fishing and mariculture cultivation industries are wholly dependent on waters that are safeguarded from pollution to provide delicious and nutritious seafood – including oysters and wild salmon – to customers around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Center, operating since 1975, has contributed more than 100 scientific publications, conducted countless education programs, and rescued and rehabilitated more than 20,000 marine mammals living in these waters, and is poised to continue in its mission to advance ocean conservation by virtue of this important work; and

WHEREAS, we have two United Nations designated wetlands of international significance at Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay; and

WHEREAS, Marin County has a long history of coastal protection, its citizens playing a major role in the creation of the state's Coastal Act, the nation's pioneering coastal protection legislation; and

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

WHEREAS, overwhelming public support for the expansion of the Gulf of the Farallones (Now Greater Farallones) and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries was also unanimously supported by the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 2005; 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, the Marin County Board of Supervisors, is aware that the Office of the President has ordered a review National Marine Sanctuaries designated in the last ten years with the apparent goal of opening these waters to offshore oil exploration and drilling.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors, finds that a review of its designation as ordered is a potentially detrimental and unwarranted intrusion into settled law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marin County 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this ___th day of _____, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES:

ABSENT:

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

CLERK