

RESOLUTION NO
RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE SANTA
BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROJECT CASE #17RVP-00000-00081
A PROPOSAL TO TRUCK OFFSHORE OIL ALONG SANTA BARBARA,
SAN LUIS OBISPO, AND KERN COUNTY HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara has been a leader in the environmental movement since the disastrous January 1969 oil spill that released more than 3 million gallons of crude oil into the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, City of Santa Barbara beaches and the Santa Barbara Channel were severely contaminated and a massive number of marine life was killed due to the 1969 "blow-out," which resulted in the development of state and federal environmental protection regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Barbara suffered harm from the 2015 Plains All American pipeline rupture in the form of damaged reputation, loss of tourism-related tax revenue, and degradation of the natural environment related to marine life fatalities, and was forced to file a \$2.2 million-dollar claim against Plains All-American; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara City Council values our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, children in Santa Barbara enjoy our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational and educational activities and our coastal and marine ecosystems should be protected for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara City Council took a position in 2015 opposing oil trains traveling through the city limits to the Phillips 66 refinery in Nipomo, concerned about the risk to the health and safety of city residents in the event of an accident or spill; and

WHEREAS, the extremely high rate of accidents makes trucking one of the worst and most dangerous forms of transport because oil truck accidents cause fires and explosions, injure and kill people, and spill hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude a year onto roads and into waterways; and

WHEREAS, the rate of accidents along the proposed oil-truck route is higher than the state average, and the trucking routes would pass through critical habitat for several species protected as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA, including red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, and Southern California steelhead; and

WHEREAS, the heavy-duty diesel trucks carrying the oil would emit noxious pollutants that threaten the health of residents, including children, along the proposed route, such as particulate matter (PM) and nitrous oxide; and

WHEREAS, the ExxonMobil Las Flores Processing Facility, within close proximity of the City of Santa Barbara, was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and PM before Exxon's offshore platforms were idled in 2015, and California has identified diesel PM as a toxic air contaminant and has estimated that 70 percent of the cancer risk from the air Californians breathe can be attributed to diesel PM; and

WHEREAS, the increased air pollution from restarting Exxon's platforms and trucking oil would put children's health at risk because their immune and respiratory system are still in development; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trucking route passes less than 250 feet from Refugio State Beach campground where 160,000 visitors a year swim, play and camp and within 200 feet of the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train tracks serving nearly 3 million passengers annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Santa Barbara City Council opposed new drilling off the California coast and fracking in existing offshore oil and gas wells because fracking threatens the Santa Barbara Channel with toxic chemical discharges. Approving the platform restart and trucking proposal will increase existing levels of oil production off our coast, including fracking, thus creating threats to our coast, wildlife, public health, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara City Council adopted a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan in 2012, which focuses on sustainable energy practices and development of renewable energy sources, and the City is actively pursuing a Community Choice Energy program; and

WHEREAS, the application to restart offshore platforms and put 70 oil tanker trucks carrying nearly half-a-million gallons of flammable crude on our highways every day would exacerbate climate change both from the production and transport of the crude oil cargo and the consumption of that oil; and burning the 4 million barrels of oil intended for trucking in a year would result in over 1.7 million metric tons of carbon pollution -- the same amount as burning nearly 2 billion pounds of coal; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would bring aging offshore drilling platforms back online, which is inconsistent with California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a recent scientific study confirmed that every barrel of California oil left in the ground will result in a net decrease of about half a barrel of oil consumption globally.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:

Our Council opposes Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Project Case # 17RVP-00000-00081, an application to restart offshore oil platforms and truck offshore oil along Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern County highways.

RESOLUTION NO.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on _____, 2020 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on _____, 2020.

Sarah Gorman
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing resolution on _____, 2020.

Cathy Murillo
Mayor