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August 17, 2020

Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903
Via Electronic Delivery: bos@marincounty.org

Re: BOS Agenda Item 7,
Full support for ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 23.22 TO THE
MARIN COUNTY CODE ENTITLED "ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE MARIN COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR
APPLICATIONS FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES SUPPORTING
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT"

Dear Supervisors,

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) is based in Point Reyes Station and has been working to protect the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin since 1971. Since our inception, we have been committed to the health of West Marin's estuaries, bays, and watersheds including our strong focus on Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon.

We submit these brief comments in full support of Marin County adopting an "*Ordinance Amending the Marin County Code to Provide Procedures for Applications for Certain Facilities Supporting Offshore Oil And Gas Exploration And Development.*" This is a strong step in ensuring local control of Marin County's invaluable coastline, which is consistent with other adjacent or nearby county ordinances in Santa Cruz, Sonoma, San Mateo, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Diego, Mendocino, and Humboldt counties. EAC cannot emphasize enough the need to protect our beautiful, economically vibrant, and heavily recreated public coastline from offshore oil and gas.

The adoption of this ordinance is crucial at a time when the federal administration is relentless in its efforts to pursue onshore and offshore oil and gas. This ordinance puts the choice to the Marin County residents, requiring them to vote before any onshore oil and gas processing plants and other facilities associated with offshore oil drilling are allowed within County lines.

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EAC Comments re. BOS Agenda Item 7: support ordinance

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The mounting federal threats cannot be discounted, including the administration's move just today to open up the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling after decades of protection. Turning back to the California coast, the sale of six federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases off the coast was in the draft Five-Year OCS leasing plan that is expected to move forward shortly after the November 2020 presidential election. Unlike Florida, California has not been offered any assurances that these proposed leases for new drilling will not take place off of our coast. While we are fortunate to have marine protected areas, special closures, and two National Marine Sanctuaries off of the Marin Coast, these sanctuaries still remain subject to federal "review."

The adoption of this local ordinance would allow for more seamless protection by connecting the protections of other county ordinances to the north and south. The ordinance will allow Marin County residents to choose whether they want any onshore facilities supporting oil and gas in the future in Marin, allowing for additional and necessary local control.

Thank you for taking this important step to protect our coastal communities, endangered and threatened species, while supporting renewable energy. This action is consistent with the county's strong history of commitment to fighting the climate crisis and supporting sustainable energy. Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Morgan Patton
Executive Director



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs
Conservation Director

cc: Rhonda Kutter, Aide to Supervisor Rodoni,
Sarah Estes-Smith, Aide to Supervisor Sears