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November 4, 2020

Fairfax Town Council  
142 Bolinas Road  
Fairfax CA 94930  
*Via Electronic Mail*

Re. Consent Calendar Item 8, Adopt a Resolution Opposing Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Exploration Activities, Including Seismic Airgun Blasting

Dear Council members,

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 also have a strong history of opposition to offshore oil.

We submit these brief comments in full support of the town of Fairfax adopting a *Resolution Opposing Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Exploration Activities, Including Seismic Airgun Blasting*. This is a strong step in ensuring coordinated local and state protection for Marin County's invaluable coastline and neighboring towns and cities. 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 resolution is crucial at a time when the federal administration is relentless in its efforts to pursue onshore and offshore oil and gas and fracking. This resolution is consistent with the *Ordinance Amending the Marin County Code to Provide Procedures for Applications for Certain Facilities Supporting Offshore Oil And Gas Exploration And Development* adopted by Marin County in August of this year.

The mounting federal threats cannot be discounted. Turning 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, which is still being planned for release. 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 resolution builds upon the 97 other resolutions adopted on the West Coast as part of the Protect the Pacific coalition's work, which EAC and Surfrider are part of.

Thank you for taking this important step to protect Fairfax and coastal communities and endangered and threatened species, while supporting renewable energy. This action is consistent with Fairfax's strong history of commitment to fighting the climate crisis and dedication to sustainable energy. We look forward to working with the Town of Fairfax on future issues impacting our environment.

Sincerely,



Morgan Patton  
Executive Director



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.  
Conservation Director

cc: Mayor Renée Goddard