[Urging Protection for Ocean and Coastal Regions from Offshore Drilling and Fracking]

Resolution urging a ban on new offshore drilling and fracking in federal and state waters in the Pacific Ocean and a ban on new federal oil and gas leases in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco values the State of California’s ocean waters and coasts, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, The City’s residents and visitors also enjoy California’s ocean and coastal regions for their beauty and for recreational activities, and depend on them for tourism and to support coastal economies; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has taken recent steps to vastly expand offshore oil and gas leasing in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, areas which have been largely off-limits to new federal leasing; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the unacceptably high risk of damage to the marine environment of its adjacent ocean and coastal areas, the State of California currently prohibits new leasing in state waters; and

WHEREAS, New technologies, collectively referred to here as “fracking and other well stimulation,” present new threats to California’s offshore and marine environments and expansion of offshore oil and gas extraction off of California’s coast; and

WHEREAS, Fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil spills and earthquakes, including the permitted dumping of over nine billion gallons of toxic wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, causing irreversible harm to human health and wildlife; and
WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco also remembers the massive ecological damage caused by the risky extraction of oil from its adjacent waters, not limited to the 1969 or 2015 Santa Barbara oil spill, which caused extensive damage to wildlife and coastal recreation; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the severe environmental risk posed by fracking, California’s Governor, Senate, and its State Lands Commission have called for a ban on new federal offshore leases, and have been joined by innumerable coastal municipalities; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump’s America First Offshore Energy Executive Order would open the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to disastrous well stimulation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors joins the chorus of California municipalities and Charter Cities calling for a ban on dangerous fracking, and well stimulation in federal and state waters off the California coast; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors also opposes any new federal oil and gas leases in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors pledges to resist with fervor the near-constant stream of environmental and ecological dangers and threats to public lands emanating from this harmful federal Presidential administration.