



January 24, 2018

Board of Directors

Bridger Mitchell, Ph.D.
President

Ken Drexler, Esq.
Vice-President

Terence Carroll
Treasurer

David Weinsoff, Esq.
Secretary

David Wimpfheimer
Director

Jerry Meral, Ph.D.
Director

Daniel Dietrich
Director

Cynthia Lloyd, Ph.D.
Director

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329
San Rafael, California 94903
Via Electronic Mail: BOS@marincounty.org

Re: Resolution - Protecting our Ocean and Coast from Offshore Drilling and Fracking - SUPPORT

Dear Supervisors,

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) was established in 1971 in Point Reyes Station and has a long history of state, local, and federal coastal advocacy on behalf of our coastal communities. The priceless biodiversity and thriving marine ecosystems of the northern California coast, especially the Point Reyes peninsula, are uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of an oil spill and fracking. EAC strongly supports Marin County's Resolution "Protecting our Ocean and Coast from Offshore Drilling and Fracking" (Resolution).

Staff and Consultants

Morgan Patton
Executive Director

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Conservation Director

Jessica Reynolds Taylor
Membership Director

Catherine Caufield
Tomales Dunes Consultant

In 1971, the Marin County coastline was devastated by an oil spill in the San Francisco Bay that poured 800,000 gallons of crude oil into the waters. The current carried the oil out of the San Francisco Bay and along the Marin County shorelines devastating critical habitat along the way. This event was one of the critical local environmental disasters that strengthened the formation of EAC.

In 2013, EAC spearheaded an initiative targeted at increasing California's prevention and response to oil spills to ensure the high standards of California's oil spill law were met, and that the oil and cargo shipping industry was taking full responsibility for the risk that they create to our irreplaceable coastal and ocean resources.

In 2015, EAC continued to work tirelessly in the state Capitol to ensure that SB 414, SB 295 and AB 864 provided a comprehensive approach to

improving California's oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response system. On the federal level, we were part of a coalition of more than 400 organizations and leaders who delivered a letter to President Obama to stop new federal fossil fuel leasing on public lands and oceans in the United States.

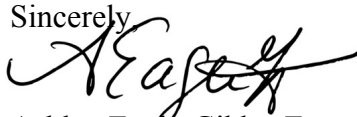
Today, we are writing to express our support for the Resolution, which calls for a ban on new drilling and fracking in federal and state waters in the Pacific Ocean, as well as no new federal oil and gas leases in the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic oceans and the eastern Gulf of Mexico—areas currently protected from new leases.

Offshore drilling and fracking are dangerous and dirty practices that pollute our water and air, drench our beaches in oil, and threaten our climate. They have no place in our ocean.

Offshore drilling and fracking threaten the health of coastal communities and marine ecosystems. First, oil companies dump their wastewater mixed with fracking chemicals into the ocean. At least 10 fracking chemicals routinely used offshore in California are toxic to a broad variety of marine species including sea otters, as well as to humans. Second, offshore fracking brings the same risks as onshore fracking, which has an appalling track record of spills, accidents, and earthquakes. Third, fracking off the California coast will intensify offshore oil and gas development. Increased offshore production deepens our climate crisis and impedes our state's ability to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The waters off the California coast are internationally recognized as an incredibly diverse and biologically rich ecosystem. Numerous endangered and threatened marine species call these waters home, including the brown pelican, southern sea otter, southern steelhead, marbled murrelet and blue, gray, and humpback whales. These species are particularly vulnerable to the threats of offshore drilling and fracking.

The 2015 Plains All American pipeline oil spill in Santa Barbara killed hundreds of animals, closed beaches and fisheries, and oiled miles of coastline. It is a sad reminder of the risks of offshore drilling. With the Trump administration poised to aggressively expand fossil fuel extraction, it is critical that our local government voices its opposition to filthy and dangerous offshore drilling activities. We ask you to protect coastal communities and marine ecosystems by voting in support of the Resolution, and we thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Conservation Director


Morgan Patton
Executive Director