



Good Morning President Connolly and Honorable Supervisors,

- My name is Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, and I am the Conservation Director at the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin. I am here today speaking on behalf of our members, many of which submitted written comments.
- We **thank you** for this opportunity to testify in strong support of **your board's resolution supporting protection of our ocean and coast from offshore drilling** and fracking. EAC has a **long history** of local, state, and federal coastal advocacy on behalf of our West Marin 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 or fracking.
- Marin County's shoreline **borders** the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, 9 Marine Protected Areas, and 3 special closures for breeding seabirds.
- The waters off of Marin County are **globally significant and provide a productive marine ecosystem, abundant wildlife, and valuable fisheries**. These waters provide habitat for at least 25 endangered or threatened species, 36 marine mammal species including blue, gray, and humpback whales, harbor seals, elephant seals, pacific-white-sided dolphins, and threatened Stellar sea-lions; over a quarter-million breeding seabirds and one of the most significant white shark populations on the planet.
- Additionally, the beaches and shorelines of Marin County are visited by people locally and internationally. In our survey samples from 2014-2017, **EAC's Marine Protected Area Watch program recorded more than 4,800 people recreating on the shores that border Marine Protected Areas**.

- **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, threatening sensitive natural habitats, including the Bolinas Lagoon.
- In this image called “**Landing an Oil Bird**” from the Point Reyes Light’s archives, you can see two of the 3,000+ volunteers helping with the 1971 clean-up efforts.
- We **cannot afford to take any more chances** with oil and gas exploration off our coastline, since these practices have a high probability of harming the priceless biodiversity and thriving marine ecosystems of the northern California coast.
- We thank your board for your prior support in reduced reliance on fossil fuels, the significant steps you have taken to address climate change, and your support of marine sanctuaries. **With the federal administration’s climate change denial and aggressive expansion of fossil fuel extraction, there has never been a more critical time for local action than now!** Our local governments must take the lead in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.
- We ask you to protect coastal communities and marine ecosystems by **voting in support of the Resolution**, and we thank you for your time.