

RESOLUTION NO 2020-10

RESOLUTION OF THE GOLETA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT TO OPPOSE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROJECT CASE #17RVP-00000-00081 A PROPOSAL TO TRUCK OFFSHORE OIL ALONG SANTA BARBARA, SAN LUIS OBISPO, AND KERN COUNTY HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, the Goleta Union School District values our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, children in Goleta enjoy our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational and educational activities; and,

WHEREAS, our coastal and marine ecosystems should be protected for children and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the extremely high rate of accidents makes trucking one of the worst and most dangerous forms of oil transport; and

WHEREAS, oil truck accidents cause fires and explosions, injure and kill people, and spill hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude a year onto roads and into waterways; and

WHEREAS, California already suffers hundreds of oil truck incidents a year, and many result in oil spills; and

WHEREAS, the rate of accidents along the proposed oil-truck route is higher than the state average; and

WHEREAS, the trucking routes would pass through critical habitat for several species protected as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA, including red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders and Southern California steelhead, which are highly susceptible to highly toxic crude oil. And oil spilled into the ocean threatens marine life, including endangered whales, sea turtles and sea otters; and

WHEREAS, the heavy-duty diesel trucks carrying the oil would emit noxious pollutants that threaten the health of residents, including children, along the proposed route, such as particulate matter (PM) and nitrous oxide; and

WHEREAS, the ExxonMobil Las Flores Processing Facility, 12 miles from the City of Goleta, was the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and PM before Exxon's offshore platforms were idled in 2015; and

WHEREAS, California has identified diesel PM as a toxic air contaminant and has estimated that 70 percent of the cancer risk from the air Californians breathe is attributable to diesel PM; and

WHEREAS, the increased air pollution from restarting Exxon's platforms and trucking oil would put children's health at risk because their immune and respiratory system are still in development; and

WHEREAS, the application to put 70 oil tanker trucks carrying nearly half-a-million gallons of flammable crude on our highways every day would exacerbate climate change both from the transport of the crude oil cargo and the consumption of that oil; and

WHEREAS, burning the 4 million barrels of oil intended for trucking in a year would result in over 1.7 million metric tons of carbon pollution -- the same amount as burning nearly 2 billion pounds of coal; and

WHEREAS, children and youth will be highly impacted by climate change throughout their lifetime as greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trucking route passes less than 250 feet from Refugio State Beach campground where 160,000 visitors a year swim, play and camp and within 200 feet of the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train tracks serving nearly 3 million passengers annually; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would bring aging offshore drilling platforms back online, which is inconsistent with California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 a well failure off the Santa Barbara coast fouled the ocean and beaches, causing catastrophic damage to the region and sparking the beginning of the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a pipeline serving offshore drilling platforms burst near Refugio state beach which fouled beaches and coastal waters for miles, causing irreparable damage to the environment and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, offshore fracking threatens the Santa Barbara Channel with toxic chemical discharges, and approving the trucking proposal will increase the incentives to frack; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and fracking threaten our coast, wildlife, public health, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, a recent scientific study confirmed that every barrel of California oil left in the ground will result in a net decrease of about half a barrel of oil consumption globally;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Goleta Union School District opposes Santa Barbara County Planning Commission Project Case # 17RVP-00000-00081, an application to truck offshore oil along Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern County highways.

Signed this seventeenth day of June, 2020.

AYES _____

NOES _____

ABSTAIN _____

ABSENT _____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Goleta Union School District

Sholeh Jahangir, Board President