



**CITY OF PACIFICA
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

7/24/2017

SUBJECT:

Adopt a Resolution Opposing Presidents Trump's Executive Order to Review the Designation of National Marine Sanctuaries in the West Coast Region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Move to adopt a resolution opposing review of designation of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

STAFF CONTACT:

Keith Breskin, Interim City Manager

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BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Pacifica coastline is near two of the five designated marine sanctuarites on the West Coast: Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones. The West Coast Region has a total of five (5) designated sanctuaries: Channel Island, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones and Olympic Coast.

On April 28, 2017 President Trump signed an Executive Order, America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, which "encourages energy exploration and production in offshore waters to maintain the nation's position as a global energy leader and to foster energy security and resilience for the benefit of the American people."

Commerce Secretary Ross was ordered to review all additions to marine sanctuaries since 2007, studying the cost of managing the sanctuaries, the adequacy of state and tribal input in the expansions, and the forgone cost of "potential energy and mineral exploration" in federal offshore waters. It will cover additions to California's four marine sanctuaries, along with sanctuaries in Michigan and Samoa, and national monuments in the Marina Island, Hawaii, Samoa, a group of remote Pacific Islands, and an area off the coast of New England. That report, in consultation with the defense and interior secretaries, is due to the White House October 25, 2017.

In a letter to Commerce Secretary Ross, Senators Feinstein and Harris have officially called for the preservation of sanctuaries that surround the Channel Island and protect the coast from San Luis Obispo County to Point Arena in Mendocino County. The four sanctuaries cover more than 12,300 square miles - about the size of the coastal counties from Marin to Del Norte plus Napa and Lake counties - and protect places such as the Monterey Canyon, Farallon Islands, and Cordell Bank, a biologically rich seamount off the Marin coast.

In conclusion this item is before the City Council to allow an opportunity for the Council to adopt a resolution opposing the Executive Order.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

ORIGINATED BY:

City Manager's Office

ATTACHMENT LIST:



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA OPPOSING REVIEW OF DESIGNATIONS OF THE GREATER FARALLONES AND CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

WHEREAS, the coast of Pacifica is a national treasure along the west coast, creating a diverse coastal ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the Pacifica coastline receives thousands of visitors a year who are a driving force in our tourist economy; and

WHEREAS, these waters and shores are currently protected against pollution and seabed destruction through designation in 1981 as part of the National Marine Sanctuary System; and

WHEREAS, issues regarding the expansion of the two Sanctuaries were thoroughly examined in 2008 in a hearing of the Fish, Wildlife, and Oceans Subcommittee, and resulted in the unanimous vote of the U.S. House for expansion; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the expansion areas under the National Marine Sanctuary Act provided the opportunity for citizen input through public meetings and more than a thousand public comments over a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, the sanctuary review would create unnecessary economic uncertainty and is in disregard to the expectations of fisherman, residents, recreational users, researchers, state and local governments, and others who participated in the process that led to the Sanctuary designation and related protections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Pacifica finds that the review of sanctuary designations, as ordered by the President, is a detrimental and unwarranted intrusion into settled law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Pacifica supports the current designation of the expansion areas of the Greater Farallones and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries and is in opposition to any new policies that weaken the benefits and protections they bring.

I, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted on the 24th day of July 2017 at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pacifica by the following vote:

AYES, Councilmembers:

NOES, Councilmembers:

ABSTAIN, Councilmembers:

ABSENT, Councilmembers:

CITY OF PACIFICA

Mike O'Neill, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathy O'Connell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, City Attorney