



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: April 16, 2019

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, To Protect The Local Role In Response To Federal Offshore Drilling Under The Coastal Zone Management Act Pursuant to NOAA-NOS-2018-0107

Whereas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has issued a March 11, 2019 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking asking for comments on the agency's proposed "streamlining" of the *federal consistency* process under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA); and

Whereas, the *federal consistency* determination under the CZMA has long provided an essential partnership opportunity between coastal states, affected local governments, and federal agencies proposing offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic airgun petroleum exploration, and renewable energy projects; and

Whereas, states with a federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Plan, acting in concert with and on behalf of their coastal communities, hold a legitimate role in determining whether a range of activities associated with federal offshore drilling and other proposed major federal actions are consistent - or inconsistent - with the state's Coastal Plan; and

Whereas, the use of a *consistency determination* represents the most reliable way that a state with a federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Plan and its local communities can effectively participate in outcomes that permanently impact their coastal lands and waters; and

Whereas, the unwarranted removal or weakening of CZMA consistency authority could leave a coastal state virtually defenseless in the face of federal offshore drilling proposals and related decisions leading up to the implementation of an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore oil and gas lease sale, an OCS Plan of Exploration, an OCS Plan of Development and Production, or federal permits for adjacent seismic airgun survey programs; and

Whereas, absent the maintenance of a state's well-established right to make an effective *federal consistency* finding, the subsequent necessary orderly planning to facilitate transportation of any petroleum via tanker, barge, or pipeline, or siting of electrical utility lines serving offshore renewable energy, would instead be dictated by federal agencies, rather than continuing to

emerge as decisions that are currently co-managed in consultation with affected local governments and coastal states; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this resolution opposing any weakening of *federal consistency* under the CZMA as it relates to any relevant federal action affecting the Coastal Zone of the State of California; and

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.