

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-12**

**STATEMENT OF CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF A  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
COASTAL AREA, AND CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION  
OF THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
INTO THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COASTAL AREA**

**THE CITY COUNCIL  
City of Morro Bay, California**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay opposes development of offshore oil and supports protection of the abundant natural resources of the San Luis Obispo coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) has been created on the California Coast from Half Moon Bay to Cambria to stop any potential offshore oil development and to support natural resource protection through education, public participation and research; and

**WHEREAS**, the MBNMS management plan update process identified expansion of the MBNMS boundary to the San Luis Obispo coast as a mid level priority for future consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) requested MBNMS staff to support formation of a committee in San Luis Obispo County to study MBNMS expansion to this area; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay supports the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries and its recommendation for improving sanctuary program management through the management plan update process, which recommendations the City feels have not been adequately addressed in the sanctuary program overall; and

**WHEREAS**, the City supports commercial fishing, commercial fishing facilities and the infrastructure needed for our traditional working harbor community; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Sanctuary program recently circulated a new fishing regulation coordination policy that clearly states the power of the sanctuary to regulate fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, despite what promises are made not to regulate fishing, when sanctuaries are created or expanded, this policy will result in sanctuary's becoming another regulatory agent in the already well regulated area of fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, National Marine Sanctuary programs and the commercial fishing industry have many common goals in education, pollution protection, opposition to offshore oil and creation of sustainable fishery, so that there is no reason why if managed with proper balance and sensitivity to traditional working harbor uses the sanctuary programs should not have positive working relationships with the commercial fishing industry and working harbor communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Sanctuary program has not developed a positive working relationship or the support of commercial fishing and the working harbor communities in its California sanctuaries at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Sanctuary program does not permit the SAC to have anything other than an advisory role and controls the ability of the SAC to communicate with the public at large and with outside agencies; and

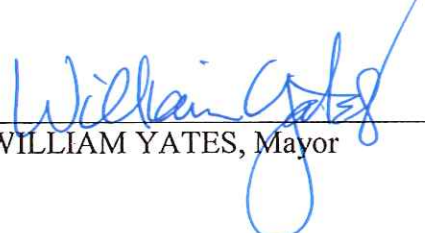
**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, as currently authorized, does not provide for a mechanism for local control of sanctuary programs and the current organization of the SAC does not adequately meet the needs of local community direction to the program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay approved Resolution 27-03 on April 28, 2003 which opposed the creation of a National Marine Sanctuary in the San Luis Obispo County Coastal Area and opposed the expansion off the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the San Luis Obispo County Coastal Area.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay that because the National Marine Sanctuary Program has not adequately resolved conflicts and concerns of the commercial fishing industry and traditional working harbor uses and because the National Sanctuary Act does not currently allow for a sanctuary designation with true local control, the City of Morro Bay continues to oppose the formation of a National Marine Sanctuary and expansion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the waters of the San Luis Obispo County coast.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay at a regular meeting held thereof on the 10th day of April 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: Borchard, Johnson, Leage, Smukler, Yates  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

  
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WILLIAM YATES, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMIE BOUCHER, City Clerk