

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor:
Duly seconded by Supervisor:

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A COUNTYWIDE ELECTION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ A MEASURE TO AMEND CHAPTER 16.55 OF
THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE PERTAINING TO OIL AND GAS AND
DEEP-SEA MINING ONSHORE SUPPORT FACILITIES; DIRECTING THE
COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICIAL TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION; AND
DIRECTING CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTION WITH THE REGULAR
ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 3, 2026

WHEREAS, the 29-mile California coastline within the boundaries of the
County of Santa Cruz is a precious natural resource which is valuable to the
People of this County, the State of California, and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz has authority under the U.S.
Constitution, the California Constitution, and State law, through its Board of
Supervisors, to use its police powers to enact legislative measures regulating
land use in the interest of public health, safety, environment, and general welfare;
and

WHEREAS, the voters of the County are empowered by the California
Constitution and State law to enact such measures by a direct initiative process;
and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz bases its coastal management
decisions on the policies and priorities in the California Coastal Act, and conflicts
are resolved in a manner which on balance is the most protective of significant
coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 1986, the local electorate adopted Measure A,
which enacted Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 16.55, in order to protect

Resolution _____

Item 17
26-14113

against and regulate oil and gas onshore support facilities, and reserved to the voters the right to amend the Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has banned new oil and gas leasing and seabed mining in state waters due to unacceptably high risk of harm to the marine environment and the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors believes that the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the coastline and community of the County of Santa Cruz remains under threat from proposals for onshore support facilities intended to support offshore development of oil and gas resources and that this threat has recently been extended to proposals related to mining for deep-sea minerals; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to provide the voters of the County of Santa Cruz with the opportunity to update Chapter 16.55 to enhance the existing protections related to onshore support facilities for offshore oil and gas development and extend them to deep-sea mining;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors as follows:

1) A County election is hereby called to be held throughout the County at the regular election date of November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the County of Santa Cruz the following measure:

Measure - _____

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COASTAL PROTECTION MEASURE TO REGULATE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND SEABED MINING FACILITIES:

Measure A, passed in 1986, requires voters to approve land use changes for onshore facilities that support offshore oil and gas development. To protect our economy, environment, and quality of life, shall voters enact an ordinance to update Measure A to also require voter approval for land use changes related to deep-sea mining facilities and strengthen the law against legal challenges?

YES____ NO____

2) Said County election shall be held and conducted, the votes received and canvassed, the returns thereof made, and the result thereof ascertained and determined in accordance with the law, including but not limited to the provisions of Elections Code Section 10400, et seq.

3) Said special County election hereby called shall be and hereby is consolidated with any and all elections also called to be held throughout the

COB Rev. 8-1-22

Resolution _____

**Item 17
26-14113**

County on November 3, 2026, in all respects as required by and pursuant to law, including but not limited to the provisions of Section 10418 of the Elections Code.

4) In accordance with the provisions of Section 9160 of the Elections Code, the County Counsel is hereby directed to prepare an impartial analysis of this measure.

5) In accordance with the provisions of Section 9160 of the Elections Code, the County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector is hereby directed to prepare a fiscal impact statement of this measure.

6) Arguments for and against this measure may be submitted in conformance with Elections Code Section 9161, et seq.

7) The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall file a copy of this Resolution with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Santa Cruz County Elections Department is requested to print the proposed ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit 1 in the County Voter Information Guide for the November 3, 2026, election date.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this ____ day of _____, 20____, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

MONICA MARTINEZ
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
JULIETTE REZZATO
Clerk of the Board

Resolution _____

Item 17
26-14113

Approved as to Form:

Signed by:

Jason M. Heath

6/4/2026

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JASON M. HEATH (06/03/2026 26-14113)
Office of the County Counsel

Attachment: Exhibit 1: Draft Ordinance Amending SCCC Chapter 16.55