



**City of Santa Barbara**  
City Administrator's Office

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** September 27, 2016

**TO:** Paul Casey, City Administrator

**FROM:** Mayor Helene Schneider *Helene Schneider*  
Council Member Cathy Murillo *Cathy Murillo*

**SUBJECT:** Request for Public Hearing/Support for Standing Rock Sioux

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Pursuant to Council Resolution 05-073 regarding City Council Meetings, we request that an item be placed on the City Council Agenda regarding a resolution proposed by members of the Chumash community supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

- Summary of information to be presented:

A resolution presented by the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation and the Santa Barbara Standing Rock Coalition, and a request for the City Council to support the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and other tribes, including Santa Barbara's indigenous Chumash, in their request for the Dakota Access Pipeline project to undergo thorough environmental review and tribal consultation.

- Statement of Specific Action:

Pass a Resolution, a draft of which is attached.

- Statement of the Reasons Why it is Appropriate and Within the Jurisdiction of the Council to Consider this Subject Matter and to Take the Requested Action:

A Resolution supporting the Standing Rock Sioux would be appropriate as City of Santa Barbara residents, economy, and natural environment have suffered harm from oil spills – historically, as a result of the 1969 platform blowout, and recently, during the Plains All-American pipeline rupture in 2015. A pipeline failure along the Dakota Access Pipeline would destroy fresh water supplies and sacred lands.

Additionally, the City has a duty to maintain a positive relationship with the Chumash community, including the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Santa Barbara's first Peoples. Joining the Chumash in their support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe would be a gesture of good will and respect.

We are requesting that this be scheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.

cc: Mayor and Council  
City Attorney  
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX  
REGARDING THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline would carry as many as 570,000 barrels of fracked crude oil per day for more than 1,100 miles from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota to Illinois, passing over sensitive landscapes including treaty protected land containing recognized cultural resources and across or under 209 rivers, creeks, and tributaries including the Missouri River, which provides drinking water and irrigates agricultural land in communities across the Midwest; and

**WHEREAS**, despite opposition from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, other Tribes located along the Pipeline route, more than 200 tribes and native organizations from across the continent, farmers, scientists, and more than 30 environmental advocacy groups; and without Tribal consultation or meaningful environmental review as required by federal law in July 2016 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit allowing the construction of the fracked oil pipeline to move forward; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara, also known as the village of Syuxtun, has been a leader in the environmental movement since the disastrous January 1969 oil spill and the activism resulting from that event was a leading factor in the development of state and federal environmental protection regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Santa Barbara beaches and the Santa Barbara Channel were severely contaminated and a massive number of marine life was killed due to the 1969 oil platform "blow-out," which released more than 3 million gallons of crude oil into the natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara has suffered harm from the 2015 Plains All American pipeline rupture in the form of damaged reputation, loss of tourism-related tax revenue, and degradation of the natural environment related to marine life fatalities, and was forced to file a \$2.2 million-dollar claim against Plains All-American; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara City Council adopted a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan in 2012, which focuses on sustainable energy practices and development of renewable energy sources, and the City is actively pursuing a Community Choice Energy collaboration with other governmental bodies in Santa Barbara County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara City Council took a position in 2015 opposing oil trains traveling through the city limits to the Phillips 66 refinery in Nipomo, with Mayor Helene Schneider writing a letter to San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission stating the risk was too great to the health and safety of city residents in the event of an accident or spill involving the five oil trains proposed to use the railroad per week; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the local Chumash community, along with the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, a sovereign nation, and the Barbareño Chumash Council, have taken a position opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline and respectfully ask the Santa Barbara City Council to take a position on this matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara honors residents of Chumash heritage and respects the Chumash cultural tradition of reverence for the natural environment and stewardship of land, water, and air; and the City acknowledges prior Chumash activism such as its opposition to the Liquefied Natural Gas Plant at Humqag, also now known as Point Conception, in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Barbara supports the Chumash community, especially our youth, in being active in environmental issues and uniting with other Native American tribes regarding causes of vital importance to their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA AS FOLLOWS:**

We acknowledge concerns from Indigenous Peoples regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline and urge the project to be halted until an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) can be completed and full consultation with affected tribes conducted. We further urge Santa Barbara residents to be aware of this important struggle for Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, and right to consultation, and to support the efforts of the Standing Rock Sioux in their quest for environmental justice.

RESOLUTION NO.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Barbara at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: I have hereto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Santa Barbara on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Gorman  
City Clerk Services Manager

I HEREBY APPROVE the foregoing resolution on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helene Schneider  
Mayor