

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 Humqaaq, 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:

SECTION 1. 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.