

Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: Noah Boland <noah@healtheocean.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 1:24 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Karina Johnston
Subject: Heal the Ocean Comment on Administrative Item 2: Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Recognizing the Importance of Biodiversity
Attachments: Heal the Ocean Comment on Administrative Item 2 - Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Recognizing the Importance of Biodiversity.docx.pdf

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please distribute the attached public comment on Administrative Item 2, *Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Recognizing the Importance of Biodiversity*, of the May 12th meeting to the Board of Supervisors. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Noah Boland

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7 May 2026

County Administration Building Board Hearing Room
Fourth Floor 105 East Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

Re: Administrative Item 2 - Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara Recognizing the Importance of Biodiversity

Dear Chair Nelson and County Board of Supervisors,

Heal the Ocean (HTO) is part of a regional collaborative that meets quarterly to discuss pressing issues impacting and benefiting local biodiversity. Over 40 organizations have signed on to a shared vision and policy platform in support of biodiversity on the central coast. We applaud the County for taking this public step to recognize the important benefits that biodiversity brings to our region through this Resolution, as well as recognizing the unique bioregion in which we live.

HTO focuses on reducing ocean pollution and improving the health of our oceans and resilience of our coasts to benefit people and wildlife. The County of Santa Barbara has a long and profound history of conservation and environmental protection, and we are proud to be one of many groups, including the County and other governmental agencies, dedicated to protecting this incredibly biodiverse region.

We encourage future actions by the County to integrate biodiversity considerations into County planning, zoning, and development decisions, including the use of native plant landscaping, wildlife-friendly design, and nature-based solutions to climate resilience. We look forward to supporting these future actions and related projects. We will continue to fight against marine and coastal pollution, a threat to our native biodiversity, and we will continue advocating for, advising, and implementing projects on our coast that not only support native species and biodiversity, but also make our coastlines more resilient.

Biodiversity enhances resilience against climate change, supports public health and our local economy, improves water quality, and is essential to providing many benefits and positive outcomes that come from thriving ecosystems. We urge you to direct staff to identify funding resources for advancing biodiversity efforts in alignment with state and regional conservation plans and goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a letter of support for the County's Resolution.

Sincerely,



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