

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING APRIL 22ND
AS EARTH DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1969, a well drilled by Union Oil on Platform A off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, blew out. At the time of the Santa Barbara Channel Oil Spill, it was the largest oil spill in U.S. waters, spewing between 80,000 to 10,000 barrels of oil and killing thousands of seabirds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions; and

WHEREAS, inspired after witnessing years of environmental neglect culminating with the oil spill in Santa Barbara, millions of Americans of all ages, walks of life, and political affiliations gathered in Santa Barbara and in cities across the Nation on the first Earth Day one year after the Santa Barbara oil spill to demand basic protections for our planet and to commit to leaving behind a healthier world for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day united people who had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage and toxic dumps, the loss of wildlife, and other environmental ills; and

WHEREAS, the voices of inaugural Earth Day participants galvanized an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that changed the way we interact with the environment, leading to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and passage of legislation such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara's first Earth Day celebration was held at Santa Barbara City College on April 22, 1970 with approximately 5,000 people in attendance contributing to the 20 million people who celebrated the first Earth Day across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara's annual Earth Day event continued on and off throughout the 1970s and 1980s, it experienced a revitalization in 1990 when Dennis Hayes called for a recommitment to a national day of recognition for the environment and Earth Day has been held every year since with ever increasing attendance; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Environmental Council, which organizes and hosts the annual Earth Day festival, has moved the event seamlessly to a virtual platform available for individuals across the globe to come together, learn the latest information and technologies, and recommit themselves to supporting a healthier planet for all inhabitants, present and future; and

WHEREAS, on Earth Day, people engage in projects, initiatives, and campaigns to protect and restore the planet including planting trees, removing litter, cleaning up coral reefs, conserving water and energy, and other environmentally responsible actions; and

WHEREAS, new and continuing challenges, including climate change, pollution, and loss of forest, wetlands, and other wildlife habitats, reinforce the need for adequate protections for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we inhabit, and the animals we live alongside; and

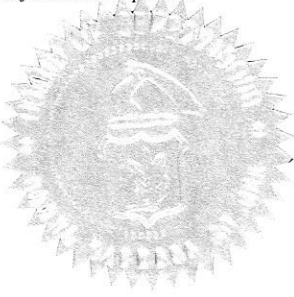
WHEREAS, Earth Day encourages us to acknowledge the prevalence of environmental injustices that directly affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities locally and globally, and affirms our commitment to ameliorating existing environmental injustices, and to preventing future injustices; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day reminds us of the need to expand environmental and climate literacy not only to strengthen environmental and climate protections but also to accelerate development of green technologies and creation of green jobs that will benefit all; and

WHEREAS, Community Environmental Council was formed in the wake of the Santa Barbara oil spill and continues to play a critical role in our year-round local efforts to fight climate change and the destruction of our planet with their programs centered around development of renewable energy, transitioning to carbon free transportation, food waste reduction, and more; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors recognizes April 22nd as Earth Day in Santa Barbara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 20th Day of April, 2021 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Doc Williams

Supervisor - 1st District

Azy Hart

Supervisor - 2nd District

Janet Bark

Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob [Signature]

Supervisor - 4th District

[Signature]

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: *Monica [Signature]*

Clerk of the Board