

IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

_____ day _____, 2016

PRESENT: Supervisors

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT

The following Resolution is hereby offered and read:

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management owns and operates the Piedras Blancas Light Station located in San Luis Obispo County and the California Coastal National Monument which includes more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the California coastline; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks owns and operates Hearst San Simeon State Park located in San Luis Obispo County; and

WHEREAS, the land and water surrounding Point Piedras Blancas in San Luis Obispo County contain historic, cultural and natural treasures that are important for public education, appreciation and recreational enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, these treasures include an historic 20-acre light station with four structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a lighthouse that has been in continual operation since 1875, land that has rich cultural significance to California native peoples dating back thousands of years, natural treasures include sweeping coastal vistas, estuaries, riparian wetlands, dune fields, a wide variety of native plants and animals, hundreds of species of birds and a rich variety of marine mammals including harbor seals, California sea lions, southern sea otters, three species of dolphins, gray and humpback whales and a colony of 23,000 northern elephant seals; and

WHEREAS, The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 designated the twenty-acre Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station as the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area, and by the same act authorized The U. S. Department of the Interior to contract with owners of adjacent lands to extend to those properties the same designation and federal protections without requiring transfer of land to the federal

government; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2011 California State Parks, acting on behalf of the State of California, and the Bureau of Land Management, acting on behalf of the U. S. Department of the Interior, entered into an agreement to cooperatively manage 208 adjacent acres of Hearst San Simeon State Park and include that acreage into the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2013, California State Parks and the Bureau of Land Management agreed to include an additional 216 acres to expand the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area to a total of 444 acres that are jointly managed by cooperative agreements signed between the parties; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein have introduced Senate Bill 1971 to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument to include six onshore units, one of which is the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area, and U. S. Representatives Lois Capps, Anna G. Eshoo and Jared Huffman have introduced H. R. Bill 3565 in the House of Representatives for a similar purpose; and

WHEREAS, San Luis Obispo County governmental, business, professional, service, fraternal, social, environmental and individual partners have endorsed the purposes of Senate Bill 1971 and H. R. Bill 3565 to ensure the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area can be forever managed as a national conservation priority in the National Landscape Conservation System; and

WHEREAS, only land currently under the ownership of the Federal or State government is proposed for inclusion and no private property or County owned property is proposed or contemplated for inclusion; and

WHEREAS, National Monument status for the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area will unify the response of federal, state and volunteer organizations to current management challenges to balance visitor use with protection of the resources; and

WHEREAS, designation as a National Monument will elevate the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area to a prestigious status recognized nationally and internationally as a location of some of America's most important historic, cultural and natural treasures; and

WHEREAS, National Monument status brings eligibility for funding available only to lands that are part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and will increase the effectiveness of fundraising by not-for-profit support groups seeking foundation, corporate and private grants to mitigate current staffing and maintenance shortages, to expedite restoration and replication of historic buildings, to promote site-specific scientific research, and to expand responsible public access by creating new trail systems, new scenic vista points and new signage; and

WHEREAS, projections of increases in the current annual attendance level of more than 850,000 will make a significant impact on ecotourism in San Luis Obispo County and contribute substantially to the economic base of the entire central coast of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors supports the designation of the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area as a unit of the California Coastal National Monument.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call votes, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

the foregoing Resolution is hereby adopted.

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Tommy Gong

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: /s _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL
County Counsel

By: Sharon G. Matuszewicz
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: March 24, 2016