

RESOLUTION – SONOMA VALLEY DEMOCRATS – January 10, 2024

WHEREAS, the marshlands of the Sonoma Valley and the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge are a critical migratory and wintering habitat for a wide range of shorebirds and waterfowl, many of which are sensitive to human contact, and

WHEREAS, management of SMART is proposing to store up to 160 tank cars on leased tracks for six months each year on the edge of the Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, the tank cars carry explosive liquid petroleum gas (LPG), a volatile and destructive medium known for being involved in more than 40 rail accidents and toxic spills in the U.S. and Canada since 2012, and

WHEREAS, a Hazmat storage yard at that location would be out of compliance with Sonoma County Code Section 29 (Hazardous Materials Ordinance), and

WHEREAS, the tank cars are parked near major Sonoma Valley highways, homes, businesses, wineries, the Cornerstone compound, the Sonoma Valley Airport, new warehouses, and the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District that serves more than 17,500 residents in the City of Sonoma, and

WHEREAS, the tankers loaded with dangerous fuel are stored between two active earthquake faults, and

WHEREAS, nearly 400 Sonoma residents have previously signed petitions requesting our legislators to take action to remove these tankers and dangerous materials from Sonoma Valley,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma Valley Democrats call upon our City, County, State, and National Representatives to declare the SMART HAZMAT rail storage to be a public nuisance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request that our legal representatives take immediate legal action to eliminate the danger presented by the above entities and to protect the Sonoma Valley environment, residents, businesses, homes, and public facilities, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that members of the Sonoma Valley Democrats work with Mobilize Sonoma and other agencies to end the storage of dangerous products in Sonoma Valley.

Submitted by Tom Martin, SVD Board Member

Beth Hadley, SVD President