



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ORANGE COUNTY

**Resolution # 21-11-15**

## **RECOGNITION OF ECOCIDE AS A CRIME**

Whereas, the Orange County, California, coast is experiencing an ecological disaster with immeasurable impact, with over 24,696 gallons of crude oil spilled into coastal waters at the beginning of October, 2021, harming fish, bird and other wildlife ecosystems with permanent, detrimental effects.

Whereas, a coalition of 15,364 scientists warned in 2017 that “humanity is not taking the urgent steps needed to safeguard our imperiled biosphere.” And that “we have unleashed a mass extinction event, the sixth in roughly 540 million years, wherein many current life forms could be annihilated or at least committed to extinction by the end of this century.”

Whereas, indigenous island communities of Vanuatu and the Maldives, along with many others, are facing elimination of their ancestral communities and their environment and are calling for such ecocide to be recognized as a crime.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Democratic Party of Orange County recognizes ecocide as a crime defined as the extensive damage to, destruction or loss of ecosystems, by human agency, whether direct or indirect.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Democratic Party of Orange County recognizes ecocide as a crime that is appropriately punishable, whether ecological damage is caused by individuals, corporations and/or governing bodies.

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