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Case No. 3:18-cv-00732-VC

#### ADDITIONAL NOTICE OF REMOVAL BY DEFENDANT MARATHON PETROLEUM CORP.

[Removal from the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Contra Costa, MSC18-00055]

Action Filed: January 22, 2018

22 USA INC.; TOTAL SPECIALTIES USA INC.; ENI S.p.A.; ENI OIL & GAS INC.;

ANADARKO PETROLEUM CORP.;

# TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-TITLED COURT AND TO PLAINTIFF THE CITY OF RICHMOND AND ITS COUNSEL OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Defendant Marathon Petroleum Corporation ("MPC") removes this action—with reservation of all defenses and rights—from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Contra Costa, Case No. MSC18-00055, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. MPC adopts the grounds for removal set forth in the February 2, 2018 Notice of Removal (ECF No. 1), which was filed by Chevron Corporation and Chevron U.S.A., Inc. ("Chevron Notice") prior to MPC being served in this case. Now that MPC has been served and within the timeframe provided under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(B), MPC files this Additional Notice of Removal ("Additional Notice") to supplement and to elaborate upon the bases for federal jurisdiction asserted in the Chevron Notice. Without conceding that any such Defendant has been properly joined and served in this action, all Defendants that Plaintiff has served or purported to serve have consented to removal of this action.

For the reasons set forth in the Chevron Notice, Plaintiffs' claims fall squarely within this Court's original jurisdiction and make them removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). In this Additional Notice, MPC details the federal nature of Plaintiffs' claims as they pertain to the "navigable waters of the United States" and that this Court has admiralty jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1333.

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#### I. TIMELINESS OF REMOVAL

- 1. Plaintiff, the City of Richmond, filed a Complaint against MPC and other named Defendants in the Superior Court for Contra Costa County, California, Case No. MSC18-00055, on January 22, 2018. A copy of all process, pleadings, or orders served upon MPC is attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Shannon S. Broome, filed concurrently herewith.
- 2. This notice of removal is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because it is filed fewer than 30 days after service. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). All Defendants that have been served (or purportedly served) as of this date have consented to this removal. *See* Broome Decl. ¶ 4. In addition, consent to this removal petition is not required as removal does not proceed "solely under 28 U.S.C. § 1441." 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A).

#### II. SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS AND GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL

- 3. MPC adopts the Summary of Allegations and Grounds for Removal set forth in the Chevron Notice. *See* Chevron Notice,  $\P\P$  3 12.
- 4. MPC elaborates upon the grounds for removal based upon the close connection between Plaintiffs' claims and the "navigable waters of the United States."<sup>2</sup>
- 5. *First*, as explained in the Chevron Notice, removal is authorized under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the action necessarily raises disputed and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As noted in the Chevron Notice, in filing or consenting to this Notice of Removal, Defendants do not waive, and expressly preserve any right, defense, affirmative defense, or objection, including, without limitation, personal jurisdiction, insufficient process, and/or insufficient service of process. A number of Defendants contend that personal jurisdiction in California is lacking over them, and these Defendants will move to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction at the appropriate time. *See, e.g., Carter v. Bldg. Material & Const. Teamsters' Union Local 216*, 928 F. Supp. 997, 1000-01 (N.D. Cal. 1996) ("A petition for removal affects only the forum in which the action will be heard; it does not affect personal jurisdiction.").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> To be sure, the Chevron Notice encompassed the jurisdictional arguments related to "navigable waters of the United States" by asserting federal common law and *Grable* bases for removal, among others. MPC fully supports the arguments set forth in the Chevron Notice and merely elaborates upon those arguments based upon the close connection between Plaintiffs' claims and the "navigable waters of the United States."

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substantial federal questions that a federal forum may entertain without disturbing a congressionally approved balance of responsibilities between the federal and state judiciaries. See Grable & Sons Metal Prods., Inc. v. Darue Eng'g & Mfg., 545 U.S. 308 (2005). Plaintiffs' claims are a collateral attack on the federal regulatory scheme for protecting and preserving the "navigable waters of the United States." In fact, the cause of action as alleged in the Complaint attacks federal policy decisions, second guesses policy decisions made by Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps"), and skews divisions of responsibility set forth in federal statutes and the United States Constitution. The protracted chain of causation Plaintiffs allege necessarily involves the "navigable waters of the United States" and federal issues pertaining thereto. Finally, the court cannot determine whether certain remedies sought by Plaintiffs are available without interpreting the statutes and regulations for protection and preservation of the navigable waters of the United States.

- 6. **Second**, because the allegedly tortious conduct at issue in this case—fossil fuel extraction—involves vessels engaged in traditional maritime activities, this Court has admiralty jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1333. Plaintiffs' claims are thus within this Court's "original jurisdiction" and removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).
- 7. For these reasons, in addition to those set forth in the Chevron Notice, Plaintiffs' claims are within this Court's "original jurisdiction" and removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

#### III. ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF REMOVAL

8. Suits facially alleging only state-law claims "arise under" federal law if the "state-law claim[s] necessarily raise a stated federal issue, actually disputed and substantial, which a federal forum may entertain without disturbing any congressionally approved balance of federal and state judicial responsibilities." Grable, 545 U.S. at 314. Plaintiffs' claims raise disputed, substantial federal issues under *Grable*. Plaintiffs' claims are inextricably intertwined with the navigable waters of the United States, and that close relationship confirms that Plaintiffs' claims (to the extent they exist) arise under federal common law, which governs

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interstate water disputes. As courts have recognized, the standards of the federal common law of public nuisance generally extend to cases involving "environmental and economic destruction" of navigable waters by any means. Michigan v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng'rs, 667 F.3d 765, 771-72 (7th Cir. 2011) (federal common law governed nuisance claim alleging that defendant's operation of the Chicago Area Waterway System would allow invasive non-native species of carp to enter the Great Lakes).

- 9. Here, Plaintiffs claim that Defendants extract, manufacture, deliver, market, and sell fossil fuels, which has caused sea level rise along the coast of the Pacific and in the San Francisco Bay—all navigable waters of the United States subject to federal protections thereby injuring Plaintiffs' property. To the extent that such a nuisance claim exists, it is governed by federal common law (as explained more fully in the Chevron Notice). In his order denying remand of similar actions pending before his Court, Judge William H. Alsup in the Northern District of California acknowledged as much, noting that "[i]mportantly, the very instrumentality of plaintiffs' alleged injury—the flooding of coastal lands—is, by definition, the navigable waters of the United States. Plaintiffs' claims therefore necessarily implicate an area quintessentially within the province of the federal courts." See Order Den. Mot. to Remand at 8, City Attorney of Oakland v. BP p.l.c. et al., Case No. 3:17-cv-06011, ECF No. 134, (Feb. 27, 2018) and Order Den. Mot. to Remand at 8, City Attorney of San Francisco v. BP p.l.c. et al., Case No. 3:17-cv-06012, ECF No. 116, (Feb. 27, 2018).
- 10. For these and other reasons set forth below and in the Chevron Notice, the close connection between Plaintiffs' claims and the "navigable waters of the United States" supports removal of this case to federal court. First, Plaintiffs' claims are a collateral attack on the comprehensive federal regulatory scheme established by Congress and the Corps for protecting and preserving the navigable waters of the United States. Second, the protracted chain of causation Plaintiffs allege necessarily involves the "navigable waters of the United States" and federal issues pertaining thereto. Third, the court cannot determine whether certain remedies sought by Plaintiffs are available without interpreting the statutes and regulations governing

the navigable waters of the United States. Finally, because the allegedly tortious conduct at issue in this case—fossil fuel extraction—involves vessels engaged in traditional maritime activities, this Court has admiralty jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1333. Plaintiffs' claims are thus within this Court's "original jurisdiction" and removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

- A. Plaintiffs' claims are a collateral attack on the federal regulatory scheme for protecting and preserving the "navigable waters of the United States"
- 11. Plaintiffs' claims depend on the resolution of substantial, disputed federal questions relating to rising levels of "navigable waters of the United States" that Plaintiffs allege was caused by Defendants' extraction, processing, promotion, and consumption of global energy resources. The Supreme Court has "recognized for nearly 100 years that in certain cases federal-question jurisdiction will lie over state-law claims that implicate significant federal issues." *Grable*, 545 U.S. at 312. Federal jurisdiction under *Grable* exists where, as here, a suit amounts to a "collateral attack" on a federal agency's regulatory decisions. *Bader Farms, Inc. v. Monsanto Co.*, Case No. 1:16-CV-299, 2017 WL 633815, at \*3 (E.D. Mo. Feb. 16, 2017).
- 12. It has long been recognized that Congress's power to regulate navigation is inherent in its power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce. *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 22 U.S. 1, at 189-90 (1824). Beginning with the passage of the Rivers and Harbors Act ("RHA") of 1899, which authorizes the Corps to preserve navigation by regulating construction, dredge, and fill activities in the "navigable waters of the United States," 33 U.S.C. §§ 401-413, Congress has created a comprehensive federal regulatory scheme to protect and preserve the navigable waters of the United States. Here, Plaintiffs claim injury based on past and future sea level rise in the San Francisco Bay, Compl. ¶¶ 71, 206, which Plaintiffs allege has "result[ed] in inundation, destruction, and/or other interference with Plaintiffs' property and citizenry." Compl. ¶ 197. These claims, which are necessarily premised on the notion that the comprehensive regulatory scheme Congress established for the navigable waters of the United States provides inadequate protection for the waters at issue, amount to a collateral attack on

- protected through the RHA. Under § 10 of the RHA, "[t]he creation of any obstruction . . . to the navigable capacity of any of the waters of the United States" without the consent of Congress is forbidden, and a Corps permit is required to build "structures . . . in any water of the United States, outside harbor lines," or "to excavate or fill, or in any manner to alter or modify the course, location, condition, or capacity of [waters] within the limits of any breakwater or of the channel of any navigable water of the United States." 33 U.S.C. § 403. RHA § 13, also known as the Refuse Act, makes it unlawful to throw, discharge, or deposit refuse matter into any navigable water of the United States or tributary thereof without a Corps permit. 33 U.S.C. § 407. The Corps is also the lead permitting authority for discharges of dredged or fill material to "navigable waters" under the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), 33 U.S.C. § 1344.<sup>3</sup>
- 14. In addition to creating a comprehensive permitting scheme for obstructions, excavations, or discharges to the navigable waters, Congress, through the RHA and other statutes and appropriations, has provided the Corps with the authority and responsibility to undertake certain civil works and water resource development activities to protect and preserve the navigable waters of the United States, including flood risk management, navigation, recreation, infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and emergency response. *See, e.g.,* 33 U.S.C. § 404 (establishment of harbor lines beyond which piers and other work cannot extend); *id.* § 426 (investigation and prevention of beach erosion and evaluation of shoreline protection policy and projects); *id.* § 426e (promotion of shore protection project and related research through federal aid); *id.* § 426g(a) (construction of shore and beach restoration projects); *id.* § 426g(b) (establishment of a national shoreline erosion control development

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and states with delegated authority issue CWA permits for discharges of other pollutants into the navigable waters. *See* 33 U.S.C. § 1342.

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program); Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-662, Title VII, § 731, 100 Stat. 4082, 4165 (Nov. 17, 1986) (study of shoreline protection and beach erosion control policy and projects in light of potential for rising sea levels).

- 15. Congress has also expressly authorized the Corps to deal with the effects of climate change in California, instructing it to "conduct a study of the feasibility of carrying out a project for," among other things, "flood damage reduction along the South San Francisco Bay shoreline, California." Water Resource Development Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-114 § 4027(a)(1), 121 Stat 1041 (Nov. 8, 2007). Indeed, the Corps has considered sea-level change in its planning activities since 1986. See, e.g., Engineering Circular 1105-2-186: Planning Guidance on the Incorporation of Sea Level Rise Possibilities in Feasibility Studies (Apr. 21, 1989); Engineer Technical Letter 1100-2-1, Procedures to Evaluate Sea Level Change: Impacts, Responses and Adaptation (June 30, 2014).
- 16. Plaintiffs' claims require the Court to evaluate the exercise of federal authority over many decades as the claimed injuries attributable to rising seas occurred despite the existence of a comprehensive federal regulatory scheme covering the very waters at issue. Because Plaintiffs allege that past federal activity and regulations to deal with flooding and erosion (and other issues potentially related to rising sea levels) failed to prevent their injuries, their complaints challenge, and necessarily require evaluation of, the adequacy of past federal decision making.
- 17. Further, some of Defendants' fossil fuel production activities and supporting infrastructure that are the subject of the Complaint were authorized by permits issued by the Corps under its regulatory authority over navigable waters of the United States under the RHA and/or CWA. Issuing such permits required the Corps to: (1) consider whether authorization of such structures or work in the navigable waters is in the public interest, which requires evaluation and balancing of a number of factors including energy needs and environmental concerns, see 33 C.F.R. § 325.3(c); (2) evaluate the environmental effects and potential alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seg.;

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33 C.F.R. Part 325, Appendix B; and (3) consider, for discharges of dredged or fill material to be authorized under the CWA, potential adverse environmental effects under the criteria established in the CWA § 404(b)(1) Guidelines, 33 C.F.R. § 1344(b)(1); 40 C.F.R. § 230. As the Supreme Court has explained, whether federal regulatory bodies fulfilled their duties with respect to the entities they regulate is "inherently federal in character." Buckman Co. v. Plaintiffs' Legal Comm., 531 U.S. 341, 347 (2001). Plaintiffs' claims necessarily implicate the Corps' evaluation of these public interest factors and environmental effects, thereby presenting federal questions to be resolved by this Court.

- 18. Thus, "the scope and limitations of a complex federal regulatory framework are at stake in this case, and disposition of . . . whether that framework may give rise to state law claims as an initial matter will ultimately have implications for the federal docket one way or the other." Tenn. Gas Pipeline, 850 F.3d at 725. Under Grable, these disputed, substantial federal issues raised by Plaintiffs' claims give rise to federal question jurisdiction. See id. at 724; Pet Quarters, Inc. v. Depository Trust & Clearing Corp., 559 F.3d 772, 779 (8th Cir. 2009) (complaint "presents a substantial federal question because it directly implicates actions taken by" a federal agency); McKay v. City and Cty. of San Francisco, Case Nos. 16-cv-03561, 16-cv-03564, 2016 WL 7425927, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 23, 2016) (denying remand and ruling that federal jurisdiction lies under *Grable* because state-law claims were "tantamount to asking the Court to second guess the validity of the FAA's decision"); Bader Farms, 2017 WL 633815, at \*3.
- 19. Finally, part of Plaintiffs' cause of action is proving unlawfulness because Plaintiffs plead nuisance under California Civil Code § 3479, which defines the claim in part as "[a]nything which . . . unlawfully obstructs the free passage or use, in the customary manner, of any navigable lake, or river, bay, stream, canal, or basin, or any public park, square, street, or highway." Cal. Civ. Code § 3479 (emphasis added); Complaint ¶ 13. To the extent that Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' production and promotion of fossil fuels was unlawful

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because they violated the federal protections for navigable waters explained above, these claims necessarily raise substantial federal questions.

- В. Plaintiffs' theory of causation, which hinges on effects to the "navigable waters of the United States," necessarily implicates uniquely federal issues
- 20. To succeed on their public nuisance claim, Plaintiffs will be required to prove causation. See Martinez v. Pac. Bell, 225 Cal. App. 3d 1557, 1565 (1990) (nuisance liability "extends to damage which is proximately or legally caused by the defendant's conduct" (citing Cal. Civ. Code § 3333)). In Judge Alsup's order requesting supplemental briefing on the jurisdictional basis for removal based upon the concept of "navigable waters of the United States," he noted that "a necessary and critical element" of Plaintiffs' theory of causation "is the rising sea level along the Pacific coast and in the San Francisco Bay, both of which are navigable waters of the United States." See Req. for Suppl. Briefing, City Attorney of Oakland v. BP p.l.c. et al., Case No. 3:17-cv-06011, ECF No. 128, (Feb. 12, 2018) and Req. for Suppl. Briefing, City Attorney of San Francisco v. BP p.l.c. et al., Case No. 3:17-cv-06012, ECF No. 111, (Feb. 12, 2018).
- 21. Similarly, here, a necessary and critical element of Plaintiffs' theory of causation is the rising sea level in the San Francisco Bay. The attenuated chain of causation contemplated by Plaintiffs' Complaint is as follows: (1) Defendants extract, manufacture, deliver, market, and sell fossil fuels (e.g., Compl.  $\P$  2); (2) the combustion of those fuels around the globe causes the release of greenhouse gases (e.g., id. ¶ 53); (3) released greenhouse gases then trap atmospheric heat and increase global temperatures (e.g.,  $\P$  52, 54); (4) increased temperatures cause thermal expansion of "navigable waters" and the melting of land-based ice therein (e.g., id. ¶ 58); (5) such phenomena cause the accelerated rise of "navigable waters" (e.g., id.); (6) current federal projects and Plaintiffs' current infrastructure are inadequate to address the rising waters (e.g., id.  $\P$  8, 12); and (7) "navigable waters" will encroach upon on Plaintiffs' land, causing damage (e.g., id. ¶¶ 8–9). Every link in this chain is inextricably intertwined with federal issues, including, as relevant here, the movement and

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impact of "navigable waters" and second-guessing of federal projects and infrastructure. See supra. This further illustrates that Plaintiffs' claims, nominally asserted under state law, should stay in federal court under Grable's "common sense accommodation" for claims that turn on substantial questions of federal law. 545 U.S. at 312–13.

- C. The court cannot determine whether any remedy is available without interpreting the statutes and regulations for protection and preservation of the navigable waters of the United States
- 22. In light of the direct federal involvement in protecting and preserving the navigable waters of the United States, substantial and disputed federal issues also arise with respect to Plaintiffs' requested remedies. Plaintiffs ask this Court to order compensatory damages and abatement of the nuisances they allege Defendants created and contributed to, including (but not limited to) "increasing local sea level, and associated flooding, inundation, erosion, and other impacts within the City." Compl. ¶ 248. Plaintiffs claim, inter alia, that the City of Richmond has "spent significant funds to study, mitigate, and adapt to the effects of global warming," id. ¶ 8, "is planning, at significant expense, adaptation strategies to address sea level rise and related impacts, including, but not limited to, development of a strategic planning document and adaptive management plan to address sea level rise along the City's developing shoreline," id. ¶ 204, and "has incurred significant expenses related to planning for and predicting future sea level rise-related and hydrologic cycle change-related injuries to its real property, improvements thereon, municipal infrastructure, and citizens, and other community assets in order to preemptively mitigate and/or prevent injuries to itself and its citizens," id. ¶ 205, all of which Plaintiffs want Defendants to fund. But, as explained above, Corps authorization must be obtained to build any dike, levee, or other structure within the navigable waters or to "alter or modify the course, location, condition, or capacity of" any port, harbor, or inclosure within the limits of the navigable waters. 33 U.S.C. §§ 401, 403. Thus, Plaintiffs will have to show that the remedies they seek are consistent with federal action and will be authorized by the Corps. This will require interpretation of the extensive web of federal regulations for the protection and preservation of navigable waters. For example,

before approving a project "[t]he benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments." 33 C.F.R. § 320.4(a)(1). And "in the evaluation of every application" to undertake a project in navigable waters, the Corps must also assess "the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the proposed structure or work." *Id.* § 320.4(a)(2). Even attempts by Plaintiffs to modify or alter existing flood-mitigation structures require approval of the Corps, which the Corps *cannot* grant if it will be "injurious to the public interest." 33 U.S.C. § 408(a).

- 23. In short, because Plaintiffs' claims hinge on alleged effects in the navigable waters of the United States and they seek remedies over which the Corps has exclusive jurisdiction, this case presents numerous substantial and disputed federal issues that provide a basis for federal jurisdiction.
  - D. Plaintiffs' claims are removable under admiralty jurisdiction because the alleged tort involves vessels engaged in maritime commerce on "navigable waters"
- 24. Plaintiffs' claims are also removable because they fall within the Court's original admiralty jurisdiction. The Constitution extends the federal judicial power "to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction." U.S. Const. Art. III, § 2. "Congress has embodied that power in a statute giving federal district courts 'original jurisdiction [over] . . . [a]ny civil case of admiralty or maritime jurisdiction[.]" *Jerome B. Grubart, Inc. v. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.*, 513 U.S. 527, 531 (1995) (alterations in original) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1333(1)). "The admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States extends to and includes cases of injury or damage, to person or property, caused by a vessel on navigable waters, *even though the injury or damage is done or consummated on land.*" 46 U.S.C. § 30101(a) (emphasis added).
- 25. In *Grubart*, the Supreme Court set forth a two-part test for determining admiralty and maritime jurisdiction. The first question is whether the alleged "injury suffered on land was caused by a vessel on navigable water" or the alleged "tort occurred on navigable

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water" (the "location" test). 513 U.S. at 534. The second question is whether the alleged tort is connected to maritime activity (the "connection" test). *Id.* Both are satisfied here.

26. Plaintiffs' claims meet the "location" test because the tort, as alleged, occurred on navigable waters. As an initial matter, the alleged injuries have occurred "on the navigable waters of the San Francisco Bay[.]" Red Shield Ins. Co. v. Barnhill Marina & Boatyard, Inc., No. C 08–02900, 2009 WL 1458022, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. May 21, 2009) (concluding that tort occurring in a marina "falls under our admiralty jurisdiction"). Beyond that, Plaintiffs allege that the tort arises from production of fossil fuels, including worldwide extraction, a significant portion of which takes place on "mobile offshore drilling unit[s]" that operate in navigable waters. See In re Oil Spill by the Oil Rig Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010, 808 F. Supp. 2d 943, 949 (E.D. La. 2011). For example, Chevron's "Jack and St. Malo fields were co-developed with subsea completions flowing back to a single host floating production unit (semisubmersible) located between the fields." https://www.chevron.com/projects/jack-stmalo. The other Defendants' subsidiaries similarly operate floating drilling platforms at various locations around the world. See, e.g., Atlantis Field: Fact Sheet 1, https://www.bp.com/con-tent/dam/bp-country/en us/PDF/Atlantis Fact Sheet 6 14 2013.pdf (BP's Atlantis Field is a "Floating Offshore Installation"); Offshore Technology, Magnolia Deepwater Oil and Gas Field, Gulf of Mexico, http://www.offshoretechnology.com/projects/magnolia/ (ConocoPhillips' "Magnolia field was developed by a tension leg platform (TLP), installed in 4,700 ft of water, a record depth for this type of floating structure"); Safety and Security, http://corporate.exxonmobil.com/en/community/corporate-citizenship-report/safety-and-health-and-the-workplace/safety-and-security (ExxonMobil's Hoover-Diana field "was the first floating drilling and production platform to develop two fields simultaneously at a depth of 4,800 feet of water"); Auger: From Deep-Water Pioneer to New Energy Giant, https://www.shell.com/about-us/majorprojects/cardamom/auger-from-deep-water-pio-neer-to-new-energy-giant.html (Shell's Auger "was the first to float in water, moored to the sea floor 830 meters (2,720 feet) below").

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27. "Under clearly established law," a floating drilling platform is "a vessel, not a fixed platform." In re Oil Spill, 808 F. Supp. 2d at 949; see also Barker v. Hercules Offshore, Inc. 713 F.3d 208, 215 (5th Cir. 2013) ("[J]ack-up drilling platforms . . . are considered vessels under maritime law."); Demette v. Falcon Drilling Co., Inc., 280 F.3d 492, 498 n.18 (5th Cir. 2002) (noting that "[t]his circuit has repeatedly held that special-purpose movable drilling rigs, including jack-up rigs, are vessels within the meaning of admiralty law."), overruled in part, on other grounds by Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc. v. Seacor Marine, LLC, 589 F.3d 778 (5th Cir. 2009) (en banc); Herb's Welding v. Gray, 470 U.S. 414, 417 n.2 (1985) ("Offshore oil rigs are of two general sorts: fixed and floating. Floating structures have been treated as vessels by the lower courts."). Indeed, even fixed drilling platforms are considered "vessels" while they "are underway to a drilling operation." Shell Offshore, Inc. v. Greenpeace, Inc., No. 3:12-cv-00042, 2012 WL 1931537, at \*3 (D. Alaska May 29, 2012). Accordingly, the allegedly tortious conduct at issue satisfies the "location" test for maritime jurisdiction.

- 28. Plaintiffs' claims also have the requisite "connection" to maritime activity. "A court, first, must assess the general features of the type of incident involved to determine whether the incident has a potentially disruptive impact on maritime commerce. Second, a court must determine whether the general character of the activity giving rise to the incident shows a substantial relationship to maritime activity." In re Mission Bay Jet Sports, LLC, 570 F.3d 1124, 1126 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 534). Under the *Grubart* test, "virtually every activity involving a vessel on navigable waters would be a traditional maritime activity sufficient to invoke maritime jurisdiction." Taghadomi v. United States, 401 F.3d 1080, 1087 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 542). The test is satisfied where, as here, "one of the arguably proximate causes of the incident originated in maritime activity" and "one of the putative tortfeasors was engaged in traditional maritime activity." Id. (quoting Grubart, 513 U.S. at 541).
- 29. Accepting the Complaints as true, Defendants' fossil fuel extraction has the "potential to disrupt maritime commerce" because one of the "potential effects" of that conduct

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is damage to ports. *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 538; see id. (noting that courts "focus[] not on the specific facts at hand but on whether the general features of the incident were likely to disrupt commercial activity" (quotations omitted)). Indeed, Plaintiffs allege that all of the earth's seas are or will be dramatically impacted by the alleged tort (Compl. ¶ 1), and the City of Richmond specifically alleges that the Port of Richmond will be damaged by rising sea levels (id. ¶ 203(b)). Plaintiffs' claims thus fall "within a class of incidents that pose more than a fanciful risk to commercial shipping." *Grubart*, 513 U.S. at 539.

- 30. Second, "there is no question that the activity" "giving rise to the incident" is "substantially related to traditional maritime activity," id. at 540, because "[o]il and gas drilling on navigable waters aboard a vessel is recognized to be maritime commerce," Theriot v. Bay Drilling Corp., 783 F.2d 527, 538-39 (5th Cir. 1986). Plaintiffs' claims therefore satisfy the "connection test" for admiralty jurisdiction. See In re Oil Spill, 808 F. Supp. 2d at 951 (concluding that "the operations of the DEEP-WATER HORIZON bore a substantial relationship to traditional maritime activity").
- 31. Because Plaintiffs' claims satisfy Grubart's two-part test, they "fall[] within the Court's admiralty jurisdiction." In re Oil Spill, 808 F. Supp. 2d at 951. The claims are thus removable under 28 U.S.C. § 1441, as recently amended by the Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011 ("VCA"), Pub. L. No. 112-63, 125 Stat 758 (Dec. 7, 2011). Section 1441(a) provides: "Except as otherwise expressly provided by Act of Congress, any civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the . . . defendants." (emphasis added). In turn, Section 1333 provides: "The district courts shall have *original jurisdiction*, exclusive of the courts of the States, of . . . [a]ny civil case of admiralty or maritime jurisdiction, saving to suitors in all cases all other remedies to which they are otherwise entitled[.]" (emphasis added).
- 32. The effect of these two provisions is straightforward. Civil actions are removable when U.S. district courts have original jurisdiction, and § 1333 provides original jurisdiction for maritime claims. Although it is true that § 1441 once required complete

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diversity to remove maritime claims, the VCA eliminated that requirement. As the plain language of the statute demonstrates, Section 1441(a) allows removal of all claims that fall within the federal court's original jurisdiction, notwithstanding the citizenship of the parties. The Seventh Circuit recognized as much in Lu Junhong v. Boeing Co., 792 F.3d 805, 817 (7th Cir. 2015), when it held that the VCA "limits the ban on removal by a home-state defendant to suits under the diversity jurisdiction."

- 33. Section 1333's saving-to-suitors clause does not alter this conclusion. That provision cannot logically be read to guarantee maritime plaintiffs a state-court forum. Section 1333 states that "[t]he district courts shall have original jurisdiction, exclusive of the courts of the States, of: (1) any civil case of admiralty or maritime jurisdiction, saving to suitors in all cases all other remedies to which they are otherwise entitled." 28 U.S.C. § 1333(1) (emphasis added). The jurisdictional charge of this provision is clear: federal courts have original jurisdiction over maritime claims. Indeed, it would be nonsensical to confer "original" and "exclusive" jurisdiction over maritime cases to federal courts, but then, without expressly saying so, also guarantee plaintiffs a state-court forum. Both the Seventh and the Fifth Circuits have endorsed this interpretation of § 1333. See Lu Junhong, 792 F.3d at 818 ("[A saving-tosuitors argument is not] the sort of contention about subject-matter jurisdiction that a federal court must resolve even if the parties disregard it."); Tenn. Gas Pipeline v. Houston Cas. Ins. Co., 87 F.3d 150, 153 (5th Cir. 1996) (holding that "saving to suitors' clause does no more than preserve the right of maritime suitors to pursue nonmaritime *remedies*").
- 34. Because this Court has admiralty jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' public nuisance claims, it may properly exercise jurisdiction over the case under §§ 1441 and 1333.

#### **CONCLUSION**

35. For these reasons and those enumerated in the Chevron Notice, this Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Accordingly, removal of this action is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1333, 1334, 1441, 1442, 1452, and 1446, as well as 43 U.S.C. § 1349(b).

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Additional Notice of Removal - 3:18-cv-00732-VC

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Richard Pavlak, declare as follows:

I am employed in the City of Washington, D.C., I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to this action; my business address is 2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

I hereby certify that on March 2, 2018, the foregoing Additional Notice of Removal was filed with the Clerk of the Court via CM/ECF. Notice of this filing will be sent by email to all registered parties by operation of the Court's electronic filing systems.

I further certify that on March 2, 2018, the foregoing Additional Notice of Removal was served on the following parties by the means described below:

BY FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL: On the above-mentioned date, I enclosed the documents by placing a true copy thereof in an enclosed sealed envelope, with first class postage prepaid, and depositing said envelope in a United States Post Office mailbox in Washington D.C. I am employed in the office of Hunton & Williams LLP, a member of the bar of this court, and the foregoing document was printed on recycled paper.

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