

2007-12-07

Adopted  
11 Dec 2007

**Sonoma County Democratic Party**

PO Box 3727  
Santa Rosa, California 95407  
707-575-3029  
[www.sonomademocrats.org](http://www.sonomademocrats.org)



**SONOMA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLUTION**

**DEFINING WATERBOARDING AS TORTURE AND ELIMINATING ITS PRACTICE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, waterboarding is a torture technique whereby a person has water poured over their face to simulate drowning, has been classified as torture under the Geneva Conventions, and has not previously been allowed in U.S. military army interrogations, and is antithetical to every moral principle that American stands for; and

**WHEREAS**, the eighth amendment to the United States Constitution bans the use of cruel and unusual punishment, and on September 6th, 2006, the United States Department of Defense released a revised Army Field Manual entitled Human Intelligence Collector Operations that prohibits the use of waterboarding by U.S. military personnel, and further that the United States is a ratifying member of the UN Convention Against Torture which prohibits the use of water boarding; and

**WHEREAS**, this form of torture has been used during the Spanish Inquisition, by the Japanese and the German Secret Police in World War II, the North Vietnamese against American POW's in North Vietnam, and that the majority of Americans abhor and do not want this form of violence and torture committed in their names by the US Government and it's acting agents;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Party is committed to ending the illegal and immoral act of torture known as waterboarding inflicted on any persons, and further that we unequivocally support the Geneva Conventions definition of torture, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Party distribute copies of this resolution to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, members of the US House of Representatives, California Senate, and California Assembly representing Sonoma County, to such media outlets as the Public Relations Committee may deem appropriate; and to all other California county Democratic central committees and to the California Democratic Party for consideration and support.

Sponsored by Thomas Gangale  
Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee, Sonoma County Democratic Party

Adapted from Margie Murray and Brad Parker, Valley Democrats United

*Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny*