

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF WHALES AND OPPOSING RESUMPTION OF COMMERCIAL WHALING

WHEREAS, whales are considered sentient beings at the apex of the marine food chain and are extremely important to the health and vitality of our oceans; and

WHEREAS, the California Gray Whale is our official State Marine Mammal and is enjoyed by whale watchers along the coast of California every winter and spring; and

WHEREAS, whale watching of Gray Whales and other species is a valuable economic activity in coastal communities throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the California Gray Whale population is showing signs of stress, and all whales are facing serious global environmental problems; and

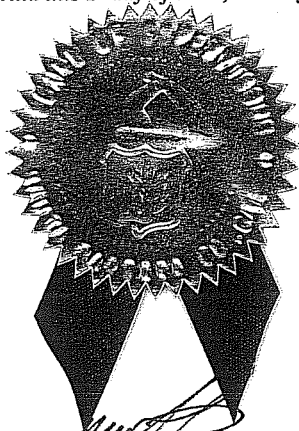
WHEREAS, as of the 1986-87 whaling season, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) adopted an indefinite moratorium on commercial whaling. The US government has vigorously promoted this moratorium; and

WHEREAS, an IWC delegation has now proposed an agreement that would legalize commercial whaling. This agreement would set ten-year whaling quotas for Gray Whales with no review of the population status of the species or potential adverse impact on populations; and

WHEREAS, the IWC is scheduled to consider this new whaling agreement and to take action on it at their annual meeting on June 21-25, 2010, in Agadir, Morocco.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors supports the protection of whales and opposes the agreement to renew commercial whaling and set ten-year quotas for Gray Whales as proposed by the IWC.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 1st day of June, 2010 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District