

1 [Call for the Federal Government to Release California Gray Whale Population Research
2 Findings and Fund Assessment]

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4 **Resolution calling on the Federal Government to make California Gray Whale**
5 **(Eschrichtius Robustus) population research findings immediately available and to**
6 **fund the National Marine & Fisheries Service to assess the major threats to the**
7 **California Gray Whale.**

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9 WHEREAS, The California Gray Whale was one of the first species to be listed on the
10 endangered and threatened species list created by an act of Congress and signed into law by
11 President Richard Nixon on December 28th, 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531) when its estimated
12 population was approximately 12,000 and was subsequently removed from the Endangered
13 Species List in 1994 when the population rose to 23,000; and,

14 WHEREAS, a major collapse in 1999 and 2000 is estimated to have wiped out one-
15 third to one-half of the total population of California Gray Whales; and,

16 WHEREAS, California Gray Whale watching tourism is a unique feature of the
17 California Coastline, of which San Francisco is a premier destination city with California Gray
18 Whale watching tour operators providing economically vital and personally enriching leisure
19 and recreation activities for visitors and residents, be they families, families with children or
20 individuals and educational, scientific, ecological and naturalist interpretive tours for school-
21 age children of San Francisco City and County and surrounding counties; and,

22 WHEREAS, in 2008 the California State Legislature adopted Assembly Joint
23 Resolution 49 requesting Congress and the President of the United States to call upon the
24 National Marine & Fisheries Service to undertake and immediate and comprehensive
25 assessment of the California Gray Whale; and,

Name of Supervisor/Committee/Department

1 WHEREAS, National Marine & Fisheries Service is currently conducting the first
2 population estimate since 2001 over the next two years; and,

3 WHEREAS, National Marine & Fisheries has failed to include in its current assessment
4 a comprehensive review of the major threats to the California Gray Whale population,
5 particularly the impact of Climate Change on this vulnerable species; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 respectfully requests that our representatives in Congress urge the National Marine and
8 Fisheries Service to immediately make publicly available the results of the current population
9 assessment when the migration cycle for the year 2010 ends in the early autumn; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
11 Francisco respectfully requests that our representatives in Congress urge the National Marine
12 and Fisheries Service to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the major threats to the
13 California Gray Whale including the impact of climate change.

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