



## PROCLAMATION CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE

**WHEREAS**, each year, the California Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus* of the Eastern North Pacific stock) migrates along the California coast to feeding grounds in the Arctic, a journey of 8,500 to 11,000 miles; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Gray Whale is important for public education, recreational value, aesthetic appeal, economic significance, and scientific interest to the people of California; and

**WHEREAS**, whale watching contributes to local economies in direct revenues and in the overall economic well-being of coastal communities, including the creation of jobs and generates tens of millions of dollars in California annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government placed the Gray Whale on the endangered and threatened species list in 1970 when its estimated population was approximately 12,000 and removed it in 1994 when the population rose to 23,000; and

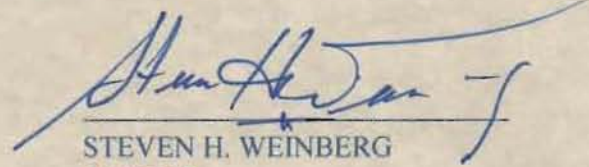
**WHEREAS**, a major collapse in 1999 and 2000 is estimated to have wiped out one-third to almost one-half of the population and there has been no proper population estimate published by the National Marine Fisheries Service since 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no habitat protection for the Pacific Coast Feeding Aggregation in California, Oregon, or Washington State and there are inconsistencies in the protection states give to Gray Whales; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Steven H. Weinberg, Mayor of the City of Dana Point, call on the federal government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale which should include all current research covering the migration routes, population dynamics, and mortality of the California Gray Whale, and the impacts of threats to the California Gray Whale,

Dated this 25th day of January, 2010



  
STEVEN H. WEINBERG  
MAYOR