



MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Proclamation

City and County of San Francisco

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, the California gray whale migrates past one of the most heavily industrialized coastlines in the world, exposing the California gray whale to marine pollution, marine vessel traffic, industrial noise, activities associated with the development of the outer continental shelf resources, fishing entanglements, bottom trawling, industrial development, and military and nonmilitary sonar activity; and

WHEREAS, the significant threats posed by global warming, melting sea ice, and the impact of increased sea water temperature in the Arctic feeding grounds of the California gray whale have very serious implications for the species; 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; California, by law, defers to the federal government and lists the gray whale as recovered; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Gavin Newsom, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, in urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to call upon the National Marine Fisheries Service to undertake an immediate and comprehensive assessment to determine if the California Gray Whale should be determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to be an endangered or threatened species, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2009 as...

CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE DAY

In San Francisco!



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom'.

Gavin Newsom
Mayor