

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-49**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEASIDE ASKING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government placed the California 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 of California Gray Whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Marine Fisheries Service has not published an estimate of the California Grey Whale population since 2001; and

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

**WHEREAS**, there is currently 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of Seaside does hereby call upon the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale. This assessment 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 including the impact of global warming on critical feeding grounds.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Seaside duly held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Alexander, Mancini, Oglesby, Bloomer, Rubio

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

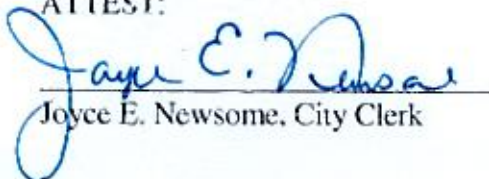
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: None



Ralph Rubio  
Mayor, City of Seaside

ATTEST:



Joyce E. Newsome, City Clerk

**CITY OF SEASIDE  
STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Ray Corpuz, City Manager  
**DATE:** October 15, 2009  
**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ASKING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO  
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE  
CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALE**

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**PURPOSE**

To support a resolution requested by the California Gray Whale Coalition calling on the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve a resolution asking the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1970, the Federal Government protected the California Gray Whale under the Endangered Species Act. At that time, the estimated population was approximately 12,000. In 1994, the California Gray Whale was de-listed when the population was estimated to be around 23,000. In 1999-2000, the whales experienced a major population collapse with over a third dying from starvation. Numbers went down dramatically with some scientists estimating the population had dropped to less than 14,000.

In 2009, the population has still not recovered, calf counts are down and there's continuing evidence of emaciation and in spite of escalating threats, there have been no comprehensive studies, population estimates or funding for California Gray Whale research since 2001.

In 2008 the California State Legislature adopted Assembly Joint Resolution 49 requesting Congress and the President of the United States to call upon the National Marine Fisheries Service to undertake an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale. Currently, there is no habitat protection for the Pacific Coast Feeding Aggregation in California, Oregon, or Washington State and there are additional inconsistencies in the protection states give to Gray Whales.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**ATTACHMENT**

Resolution asking the Federal Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the California Gray Whale.

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Reviewed for Submission to the  
City Council by:

  
Ray Corpuz, City Manager