

10-0002-560

JUN 09 2010

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the California Coastal Commission indicates that increasing trends of whale extinctions such as the North Atlantic Gray whale, and the significant reduction of sustainable numbers of Blue whales, Right whales, Sperm whales, and the Western North Pacific Gray whale, can be attributed to acts of illegal commercial whaling and the international black market for whale meat, resulting in the killing of 41,453 whales for commercial purposes between 1985 and 2009 in order to produce perfumes, oil, pet food, and various luxury items; and

WHEREAS, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) serves as a voluntary collaborative consisting of 88 member nations, tasked with regulating commercial whaling to prevent "overfishing" and other issues related to whale extinction; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the IWC implemented the existing moratorium on commercial whaling, which allows for the killing of whales only for scientific and aboriginal subsistence purposes, although data suggests that countries with objections to the moratorium have been responsible for approximately 20,000 of the whale killings for commercial reasons since 1985; and

WHEREAS, the Chair and Vice Chair of the IWC have released a proposal, which would set ten-year annual catch limits for various types of whales, establish requirements for whale observing vessels, expand research of existing threats to whales, etc.; and

WHEREAS, despite the benefits of the upcoming proposal, there are drawbacks according to critics, inasmuch as the "bracketing trade language" would set 10-year catch limits for nations which currently violate the moratorium, which would indirectly allow for commercial whaling; and

WHEREAS, since the proposal is set to be considered at the June 21st meeting of the IWC, this urgent matter requires immediate action in order to oppose such provisions which would allow for the continuous reduction of endangered whale populations, and could subsequently result in additional extinctions of endangered whale species;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 Federal Legislative Program, OPPOSITION to any legislation or administrative action which would support provisions in the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) proposal, that would allow for commercial whaling, and the subsequent reduction of any species of endangered whales.

PRESENTED BY:

Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

Paul Smith

ORIGINAL

cc

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