

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed 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 City shares responsibility for administering the public trust protect wildlife and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act was passed by a bi-partisan majority of Congress and signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1973 to protect not only individual species, but the healthy ecosystems upon which all life depends; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act has saved from extinction 99% of the species protected under the Act -- including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, green sea turtles, southern sea otters, and humpback whales; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent national poll, 90% of Americans support the Endangered Species Act and 68% of voters are more likely to support members of Congress who back environmental safeguards like the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles is home to threatened and endangered species such as the Arroyo toad, Southern California steelhead, western snowy plover, desert tortoise, California condor, red legged frog, among others including the El Segundo blue butterfly that was almost driven to extinction and due to conservation efforts has rebounded; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act also protects ocean wildlife, including Southern Resident Orcas who range from the Puget Sound area in the territory of the Lummi tribe all the way to California; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Resident Orcas are listed as endangered and threats include military sonar, oil and gas development, habitat destruction from coastal construction, water and plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is in the process of proposing a rule to expand critical habitat for orcas to the coastal areas off the states of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act, in protecting the health of our oceans, also protects human beings since more than 70% of the oxygen we breathe comes from ocean plants; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act ensures our natural heritage now and for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution with concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any legislation or administrative action that attempts to weaken or repeal the Endangered Species Act, particularly in terms of our oceans and the Southern Resident Orcas.

PRESENTED BY:

Paul Koretz

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

JUN 7 2019

SECONDED BY:

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