

1 [Resolution Opposing the Proposed Resumption of Commercial Whaling and
2 Ten-Year Quotas for Gray Whales as Proposed by The International Whaling Commission
(IWC)]
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4 **The Board of Supervisors urges President Barack Obama to direct the United States**
5 **delegation to the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission on June 21-**
6 **25, 2010 in Agadir, Morocco to oppose any agreements that allow commercial whaling**
7 **or set quotas for commercial whaling.**
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10 WHEREAS, Whales are considered sentient beings that, at the apex of the marine
11 food chain, are extremely important for the health and viability of our oceans; and,

12 WHEREAS, The California Gray Whale is our official state Marine Mammal and is
13 enjoyed by the millions of whale watchers along the coast of California every winter and
14 spring; and,

15 WHEREAS, California Gray Whale watching tourism is a unique feature of the
16 California Coastline, of which San Francisco is a premier destination city with California Gray
17 Whale watching tour operators providing economically vital and personally enriching leisure
18 and recreation activities for visitors and residents, be they families, families with children or
19 individuals and educational, scientific, ecological and naturalist interpretive tours for school-
20 age children of San Francisco City and County and surrounding counties; and,

21 WHEREAS, The California Gray Whale population is showing signs of stress, and all
22 whale populations, including the Gray Whale, are facing a serious global threat due to global
23 environmental problems, including effects of global warming and acidification of the oceans,
24 harvesting of krill and other small fish species, intense underwater noise , and water pollution;
25 and,

1 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2010 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a
2 resolution respectfully requesting that our representatives in Congress urge the National
3 Marine and Fisheries Service to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the major threats
4 to the California Gray Whale including the impact of climate change, on file with the Clerk of
5 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 100242, which is hereby declared to be a part of this
6 resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

7 WHEREAS, The International Whaling commission (IWC) has adopted an indefinite
8 moratorium on commercial whaling that went into effect for the 1986-87 whaling season; and,

9 WHEREAS, The United States government vigorously promoted the whaling
10 moratorium and has, in the past, led efforts to protect whales in the IWC and other global
11 forums, including the establishment of the entire Southern Ocean as an IWC whale
12 sanctuary; and,

13 WHEREAS, An IWC delegation has now proposed an agreement that would legitimize
14 and perpetuate commercial whaling, including so-called scientific whaling, on whale species,
15 including several that are considered globally endangered; and,

16 WHEREAS, This agreement would legalize current commercial whaling, including so-
17 called scientific whaling from which all the products are marketed, being conducted by the
18 countries of Japan, Norway and Iceland in defiance of the moratorium, as well as continue
19 illegal trade in whale meat; and,

20 WHEREAS, This agreement would set ten-year quotas for whale species for both
21 commercial and subsistence whaling, including Gray Whales, without regard to scientific
22 review of the population status of the species or potential adverse impact of the quotas; and,

23 WHEREAS, This agreement would allow a subsistence quota of 1,400 Gray Whales
24 over the next ten years, a quota that could only be modified by a three-quarters vote of the full
25 IWC; and,

1 WHEREAS, The IWC is scheduled to consider this new whaling agreement and to
2 take action on it at their annual meeting on June 21-25, 2010 in Agadir, Morocco; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 opposes the agreement to renew commercial whaling and set ten-year quotas as proposed
6 by the IWC; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
8 Francisco urges President Barack Obama to direct the United States Delegation to oppose
9 any agreements that allow commercial whaling or set quotas.

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