

1 [California Gray Whale]

2 **URGING THE MITSUBISHI CORPORATION IMMEDIATELY AND PERMANENTLY TO**  
3 **WITHDRAW ITS PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A SALT WORKS PLANT AT LAGUNA SAN**  
4 **IGNACIO IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE LAST REMAINING BREEDING GROUND IN THE**  
5 **WORLD FOR THE CALIFORNIA GRAY WHALES AND OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES**  
6 **AND FURTHER REQUESTING THE CITY ATTORNEY INVESTIGATE THE NUMBER AND**  
7 **TYPE OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO AND**  
8 **THE MITSUBISHI CORPORATION AND ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND THE FISCAL**  
9 **IMPACT OF DIVESTING FROM THOSE COMPANIES.**

10 WHEREAS, Mitsubishi Corporation, through a subsidiary known as Exportada de Sal,  
11 S.A. (ESSA), plans to build the world's largest salt factory in Mexico's Laguna San Ignacio;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Laguna San Ignacio is the last pristine breeding and calving area in the  
14 entire world for California Gray Whales as well home to numerous other diverse species such  
15 as the endangered prong-horned antelope, burrowing owls, sea lions, and black sea turtles;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Laguna San Ignacio was designated a whale sanctuary by Mexico in 1976  
18 included within the El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve in 1988, and listed by UNESCO as a World  
19 Heritage Site in 1993; and

20 WHEREAS, The proposed building of the largest salt factory in the world will inevitably  
21 cause toxic contamination, increased noise and ship traffic, altered drainage patterns and  
22 other drastic environmental disturbances which may force mother Gray Whales and their  
23 calves from their last remaining breeding lagoon; and

24 WHEREAS, In three years, two major spills of toxic brine from a Mitsubishi saltworks in  
25 nearby Guerrero Negro have killed more than 94 endangered sea turtles ; and

Supervisor Ammiano

1           WHEREAS, A Mexican government audit conducted in 1995-96 revealed 298  
2 environmental deficiencies at the existing Guerrero Negro saltworks facility, which to date  
3 remains uncorrected ; and

4           WHEREAS, The permanent flooding of 116 square miles of an area designated as a  
5 UN World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, is both illegal according to Mexican law and a  
6 mockery of international environmental protections ; and

7           WHEREAS, Thirty four of the world's most distinguished scientists including nine Nobel  
8 laureates, have warned of an "unacceptable risk" to significant biological resources in and  
9 around Laguna San Ignacio; and

10          WHEREAS, Over 750,000 people around the world have send petitions and letters to  
11 the President of Mitsubishi urging him to abandon the proposed saltworks ; and

12          WHEREAS, A Mexican-led international coalition of over 50 concerned environmental  
13 organizations including Grupo de los Cien, Pro Esteros, Union de Grupos Ambientalistas,  
14 Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Consejo Para la Defensa de la Costa del Pacifico,  
15 and Greenpeace Mexico, together with the International Fund for Animal Rights Welfare and  
16 the Natural Resource Defense Council, have established a coalition to Save Laguna San  
17 Ignacio; now, therefore, be it

18          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
19 does hereby urge the Mitsubishi Corporation immediately and permanently withdraw its plans  
20 to construct a salt works plant at Laguna San Ignacio in order to preserve the last remaining  
21 breeding ground in the world for the California Gray Whale and other endangered species;  
22 and be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests the City Attorney to  
2 investigate the number and type of contracts between the City and County of San Francisco  
3 the Mitsubishi Corporation and any of its subsidiaries and the fiscal impact of divesting from  
4 those companies.

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**SUPERVISOR AMMIANO**



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

### Resolution

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**File Number:** 991779

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the Mitsubishi Corporation immediately and permanently to withdraw its plans to construct a salt works plant at Laguna San Ignacio in order to preserve the last remaining breeding ground in the world for the California Gray Whales and other endangered species and further requesting the City Attorney investigate the number and type of contracts between the City and County of San Francisco and the Mitsubishi Corporation and any of its subsidiaries and the fiscal impact of divesting from those companies.

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September 27, 1999 Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

September 27, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

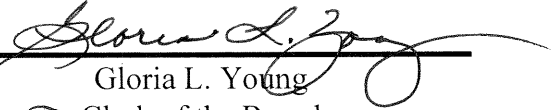
Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Brown

Excused: 1 - Becerril

File No. 991779

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 27, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

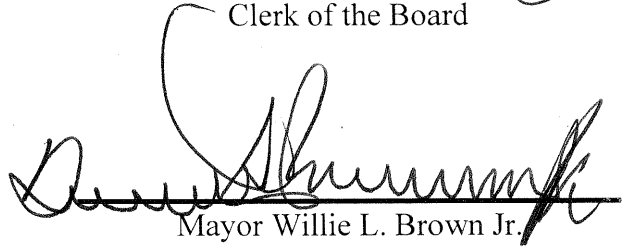


Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

OCT - 8 1999

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Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.