

248-10

1 [Opposing the Proposed Resumption of Commercial Whaling and  
2 Ten-Year Quotas for Gray Whales as Proposed by The International Whaling Commission]

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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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9 WHEREAS, Whales are considered sentient beings that, at the apex of the marine  
10 food chain, are extremely important for the health and viability of our oceans; and,

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

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

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

Tails  
Resolution

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

File Number: 100593

Date Passed: May 18, 2010

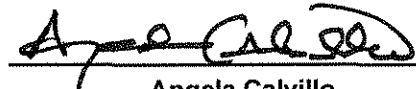
Resolution urging President Barack Obama to direct the United States delegation to the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission on June 21-25, 2010, in Agadir, Morocco, to oppose any agreements that allow commercial whaling or set quotas for commercial whaling.

May 18, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

File No. 100593

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/18/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

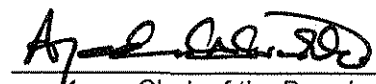
  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

UNSIGNED  
Mayor Gavin Newsom

5-28-10  
Date Approved

Date: May 28, 2010

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

  
Clerk of the Board

File No.  
100593