



County of Santa Cruz⁰⁵¹⁷

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

February 23, 2000

AGENDA: March 7, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION'S RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

Members of the Board:

On December 7, 1999, your Board considered a "Resolution Requesting Deletion of California Sea Lions and Pacific Harbor Seals from the Marine Mammal Protection Act" recommended by the County Fish and Game Advisory Commission. The recommended Resolution was based on a number of technical sources of information including a Report to Congress: "Impacts of California Sea Lions and Pacific Harbor Seals on Salmonids and West Coast Ecosystems" prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Resolution, if adopted in the form presented, would have supported the findings of the Report to Congress requesting additional studies on pinniped and salmonid interactions, and would have recommended the deletion of sea lions and harbor seals from the protections of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Your Board, following lengthy public comments, deleted the second recommendation of the Resolution (regarding the Marine Mammal Protection Act), directed the Fish and Game Advisory Commission to conduct a public hearing on the proposed Resolution, and directed that the results of that hearing be presented to your Board on this date.

The Commission held a public hearing on the Resolution on February 3, 2000. The Commission received a substantial amount of testimony regarding the issue of salmonid and pinniped interactions. After more than three hours of public testimony, the Commission voted to continue the matter to their March 2, 2000, meeting. In view of the substantial public interest in this matter, it is quite likely that the Commission will not conclude their discussions on the Resolution at their March meeting, but will probably be finished in April.

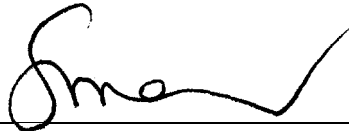
It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board defer **further** consideration of this matter until May 2, 2000.

Sincerely,



Alvin D. James
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED: _____



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: Fish and Game Advisory Commission