

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 08/24/2009		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Supporting the Implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act			
Contact Person/Dept.: Helen Kerstein/PW		Phone Number: (310) 253-5618	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒	Attachments: ☒
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-Mail) Ongoing Topics - Sustainability and Environmental Issues (08/19/09); Meetings and Agendas – City Council (08/19/09)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (08/13/09)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (08/19/09)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (08/19/09)		City Manager Approval: Mark Scott (08/19/09)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution supporting the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act.

BACKGROUND:

For many years, state and federal governments have attempted to protect fish and other sea life. One way in which they have done this is to create Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) where fishing is typically limited or prohibited. As of 1999, there were over a hundred MPAs in the ocean surrounding the State of California. However, these MPAs were created on a case-by-case basis without the coordination necessary to ensure their effectiveness at protecting wildlife.

In 1999, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) was passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis. One of the goals of the MLPA was to bring a more coherent, strategic, and inclusive process to the creation of MPAs in order to protect fragile ecosystems and support biodiversity. The MLPA required the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) to create a master plan to guide the creation of new MPAs.

In order to implement the MLPA, the Department formed three groups: an MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, a Master Plan Science Advisory Team, and Regional Stakeholder Advisory Groups throughout the state. These groups were charged to use a scientifically-based and stakeholder-driven process to evaluate alternatives and provide the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) with recommendations on the establishment of MPAs.

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Utilizing this process, the Commission approved the first cluster of MPAs along the coast of Central California in 2007. In August of this year, it voted to establish another group along a stretch of coast in Central and Northern California. The Commission is now turning its attention to Southern California. The South Coast Regional Advisory Group is currently in the process of narrowing down alternatives for the establishment of MPAs along the southern portion of the state. At an upcoming meeting in early September, the group will decide on which alternatives to recommend to the Master Plan Science Advisory Team. This team will then vet the alternatives and the Blue Ribbon Task Force will make a recommendation on where and how MPAs should be established in Southern California to the Commission by the end of this year.

DISCUSSION:

Many Culver City residents take advantage of the City's proximity to the Pacific Ocean. They benefit from vibrant and healthy bodies of water, including the Ocean and Santa Monica Bay. The proposed resolution supports the implementation of the MLPA process and the preservation of marine habitats in Santa Monica Bay, so that they will be available for Culver City residents to enjoy for generations to come (Attachment 1). It is consistent with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan and with the City's Legislative Advocacy Program, which includes support for efforts to clean-up and improve waterways that affect the City. Also the City Council's Sustainable City Subcommittee is recommending City Council support of this process due to its potential to have positive impacts on the environment.

The city councils of the cities of Laguna Beach, Santa Monica, and Los Angeles have passed resolutions in support of the MLPA process. Furthermore, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has agendized a similar resolution in support of the MLPA and the establishment of MPAs in Santa Monica Bay.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the process of adopting of this resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Adopt a Resolution supporting the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act.