

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
CITY COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-056

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA AUTHORIZING A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA AB 953 (CONNOLLY AND HART) WHICH WILL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, every year, the world's largest container ships and auto carriers make thousands of transits along the California coast, with an estimated 120 tons per day of NOx, a major contributor to smog and acid rain, being emitted within 100 nautical miles of the coast; and

WHEREAS, these emissions negatively affect the public health of coastal communities and cause some areas of the coast to exceed national and state ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, ship strikes also pose a major threat to whales during prime migration season, especially in regions such as the Monterey Coast that serve as a primary feeding ground and migratory route for humpbacks and other endangered whale species; and

WHEREAS, traveling at a speed of 10 knots or less has been found to decrease a vessel's risk of fatal collisions with whales significantly; and

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 953 (Connolly and Hart) will develop a statewide voluntary vessel speed reduction and sustainable shipping program for the California coast; and

WHEREAS, AB 953 would task the Ocean Protection Council, in coordination with California air districts along the coast and in consultation with the United States Coast Guard, the federal Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Navy, the State Air Resources Board, and other stakeholders, to create the program; and

WHEREAS, AB 953 aims to build upon the existing *Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies* program by expanding to include Monterey, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, and the North Coast, which would yield additional public health and ecosystem benefits; and

WHEREAS, since its implementation, the *Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies* program has resulted in an estimated reduction of more than 76,000 tons of greenhouse-gas emissions and a 50 percent estimated decrease in whale strikes, as well as contributed to reduced levels of ocean noise; and

WHEREAS, the passage of AB 953 will have a beneficial effect on air quality, reduce risk of fatal vessel strikes on whales, and help to improve public and environmental health along California's coast, including Carmel-by-the-Sea.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA DOES HEREBY:

Supports AB 953, which will develop a statewide voluntary vessel speed and sustainable shipping program, and authorizes staff send a letter of support for AB 953 to be sent to the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA this 2nd day of May, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Dave Potter
Mayor

Nova Romero, MMC
City Clerk