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**Date:** February 15, 2000

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**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Councilmember Dan Baker

**Subject:** Request for a Resolution in Opposition to the Construction of a Salt Factory in Baja California, Mexico

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I am requesting a resolution opposing the construction of a salt evaporation facility in Laguna San Ignacio, Mexico by the Mitsubishi Corporation and the Mexican government.

Laguna San Ignacio is a habitat for the California gray whale and is one of the few undeveloped breeding and calving grounds left for this species of whale. This site has been declared a gray whale refuge by the Mexican government, included in the El Vizcaino Biosphere reserve, and designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

The production of the salt produces a toxic brine byproduct. Spills of toxic brine at nearby saltworks have killed fish and turtles. The effects of brine spills on gray whales have not been studied.

The California Coastal Commission and more than 25 local governments in California, including the Los Angeles City Council, the Malibu City Council, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors have passed resolutions opposing the proposed development.

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**FILED**  
WITH CITY COUNCIL

FEB 15 2000

*Shelba Powell*  
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