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California Assemblymember
Pedro Nava

Representing Assembly District 35

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About Pedro:

Representing the 35th District,
Pedro Nava is the Chair of
Banking and Finance Committee.
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Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0035
Tel: (916) 319-2035
Fax: (916) 319-2135

District Offices:

Santa Barbara County
101 W. Anapamu Street
Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: (805) 564-1649
Fax: (805) 564-1651

Ventura County
201 E. Fourth Street
Suite 209-A
Oxnard, CA 93030
Tel: (805) 483-9808
Fax: (805) 483-8182

Press Release

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER PEDRO NAVA
35TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2008

Contact: John Mann

Phone: (805) 483-9808

Assemblymember Pedro Nava's Assembly Joint Resolution 49 Calling on the U.S. Congress, the President, and California to Take Action to Protect the California Gray Whale Passes First Hurdle

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security and the legislature's representative on the California Ocean Protection Council announced that his AJR 49 calling on the United States Congress, the President, and the California Fish and Game Commission to take action to protect the California Gray Whale passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee today on a 9 to 3 vote.

“I am pleased that my colleagues on the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee have joined me in asking Congress, President Bush, and the California Fish and Game Commission to take immediate action to protect the California Gray Whale,” said Nava. “This magnificent marine mammal is again facing a number of threats to its existence and it is imperative that we act to provide it with as much protection as possible so that it will be here for future generations.”

This measure would request the United States Congress and the President of the United States to call upon the National Marine Fisheries Service to undertake an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the California gray whale, and requests the California Fish and Game Commission to change the status of the gray whale to endangered. This revised listing will provide comprehensive protections for the Gray Whale as it travels from the Northern Pacific Ocean to its feeding grounds in the Arctic.

The California Gray Whale was at time placed on the endangered and threatened species list, but was removed in 1994 after its population recovered. However a major collapse of the California Gray Whale occurred in 2000, eliminating up to a third of the species. Current threats to the Gray Whale's survival include climate change, oil and gas exploration and leases in the Bering and Chukchi Sea feeding grounds, noise from seismic operations, military and non-military sonar, liquefied natural gas terminals planned along the whale's migration route, bottom trawling, pollution, and other changes in ocean conditions.

“California’s coastline and the marine environment are precious and need to be protected for our children and grandchildren. This resolution will send a strong message to Congress and the President that we need to take action now to save the California Gray Whale,” said Nava.

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