



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



March 27, 2012

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Honorable Paul Fong  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0022

**Re: Support AB1776 – Declare the Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle as California’s Marine Reptile**

Dear Assemblyman Fong,

The San Francisco Commission on the Environment is writing in support of your legislation AB1776 to designate the Pacific leatherback sea turtle as California’s official marine reptile.

By City Charter, the Commission on the Environment sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the mayor and Board of Supervisors on a wide range of environmental matters.

The Commission supports AB1776 because it recognizes that the ocean waters outside the Golden Gate and along San Francisco’s western edge include some of the most important feeding areas in the world for the critically endangered leatherback sea turtle. We realize that these waters are so important to the survival and recovery of this ancient marine species that they are included in the 16,910 square miles of California state coastal waters that were designated as critical habitat for leatherbacks under the U.S. Endangered Species Act on Feb. 27, 2012.

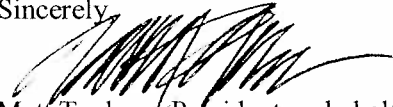
The Commission agrees that establishing the Pacific leatherback as the state’s marine reptile will help educate the public and bring awareness to the conservation efforts needed to protect these remarkable creatures.

The Commission supports the bill’s intention to:

- Designate the Pacific leatherback sea turtle as the official state marine reptile.
- Establish October 15 every year as Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation Day.
- Encourage public schools to include Pacific leatherback sea turtles in their teaching lessons and curriculum whenever possible.
- Encourage state residents to participate in a statewide, voluntary leatherback sea turtle watch to report sightings of the Pacific leatherback sea turtles.

Thank you so much for authoring AB1776 to designate the Pacific leatherback as the official marine reptile of the state of California.

Sincerely,

  
Matt Tuchow, President on behalf of  
The Commission on the Environment