

Meeting Date: 3/3/2015

Report Type: Consent

Report ID: 2015-00182

Title: Declaring the City of Sacramento as a Honey Bee Haven

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a Resolution 1) declaring the City of Sacramento as a Honey Bee Haven and map its location on honeybeehaven.org; 2) officially recognizing the critical important of pollinators to our food supply and to our environment; and 3) directing the transmittal of this Resolution to local agencies, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Contact: Councilmember Jay Schenirer, District 5, (916) 808-7005

Presenter: None

Department: City Clerk

Division: City Clerk

Dept ID: 04001011

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form

Matthew Ruyak

2/25/2015 10:11:42 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Shirley Concolino - 2/24/2015 10:02:33 AM

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: This item is being brought forward for consideration at the request of Councilmember Schenirer to declare the City of Sacramento a Honey Bee Haven and register Sacramento's location as a Honey Bee Haven on honeybeehaven.org. The goal of a registered Honey Bee Haven is to protect bees from pesticides; provide a variety of food for bees; provide a year-round, clean source of water for bees; and provide shelter for bees.

Bees pollinate a significant portion of the food we grow and eat. In recent years, bees have been dying off in droves. Since 2006, commercial beekeepers have reported annual losses of 29% - 36%, which is more than double what is considered normal. With most fruits, many vegetables, almonds, alfalfa and many other crops all dependent upon bees for pollination, the variety and nutritional value of our food system is threatened. In addition to their agricultural value as pollinators, honey bees are a keystone indicator species. As such, their decline points to and will likely accelerate broader environmental degradation in a kind of ripple effect which should not be ignored.

The significant loss of bees on an annual basis can be contributed to several factors including pathogens, habitat loss and pesticides. A new class of neurotoxic pesticides, or neonicotinoids, is known to be particularly toxic to bees and bees are exposed in many different ways. Neonicotinoids like imidacloprid and its successor product clothianidin are used as seed treatments in hundreds of crops from corn to almonds, as well as in lawn care and flea products.

Policy Considerations: Not applicable.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: None.

Sustainability: None.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: Bees and other pollinators are critical to our food supply and to our environment. By declaring the City of Sacramento a Honey Bee Haven, efforts will be made to protect honey bees and other pollinators.

Financial Considerations: Not applicable.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO AS A HONEY BEE HAVEN

BACKGROUND

- A. Each year since 2006, commercial beekeepers in the United States have reported annual losses of bees in excess of what would be considered normal.
- B. Honey bees are a keystone indicator species and their decline points to broader environmental degradation.
- C. Bees and other pollinators are essential to the majority of flowering plants on our planet.
- D. Pollinator population declines may be a significant piece of the current collapse in biodiversity that some biologists believe poses an even greater threat to humanity than climate change.
- E. Threats to pollinators concern the entire food system. Pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food; are responsible for the pollination of key crops, including almonds, apples, blueberries, cherries, and many others; and contribute over \$19 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture.
- F. Multiple and interacting causes that are likely contributors to the decline of pollinator populations include pathogens, habitat loss, and exposure to pesticides. Scientific evidence about the impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides including clothianidial, thiamethoxam, and imidacloprid – is especially compelling and warrants action.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City of Sacramento is declared a Honey Bee Haven and will be mapped on honeybeehaven.org.
- Section 2. The City of Sacramento officially recognizes the critical importance of bees and other pollinators to our food supply and to our environment.

Section 3. The City of Sacramento will transmit copies of this resolution to the appropriate local agencies, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture.