

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH

May 5, 2026

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Proclaiming April 27, 2026 as “Marine Mammal Rescue Day” in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County’s coastline is home to a diverse array of marine mammals, including sea lions, seals, dolphins, and whales, which are vital to the ecological health, biodiversity, and cultural identity of our coastal communities. In recent years, Southern California has experienced increasingly severe and frequent harmful algae blooms, climate change, and other environmental factors that have led to unprecedented numbers of strandings along Los Angeles County beaches.

The County of Los Angeles, led by the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH), has taken proactive steps to address these incidents over the past year and to assist with efforts to rescue and care for marine mammals. Most recently, in May of 2025, the Board approved a motion authored by Supervisor Horvath titled, “[Urgent Response to a Rise in Stranded Marine Mammals Affected by Domoic Acid Along Los Angeles County Beaches](#)”, which sought to support the Marine Mammal Care Center’s (MMCC) rescue and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals impacted by a surge in domoic acid

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

poisoning along LA County beaches. As result, the County provided significant funding for essential medical services to stranded marine mammals. In addition, DBH created a public education and outreach campaign in partnership with MMCC that focused on reporting marine mammal incidents and promoting best practices for responsible shoreline use. The department also established the Marine Mammal Regional Convening with MMCC, bringing together multiple jurisdictions across the state to enhance cross-agency collaboration and identify actionable strategies to mitigate the impacts of the domoic acid crisis.

This month, the department has launched the Coastal Partners Pledge Program, whereby participants pledge to commit to the following: 1) Provide timely coordination and communication during marine mammal rescue incidents; 2) Offer logistical, operational, or resource support when feasible; 3) Assist with surge capacity needs during large-scale stranding events; 4) Support public education and outreach efforts; and 5) Strengthen regional collaboration to ensure effective and humane response to marine mammal strandings.

Marine Mammal Rescue Day, observed each year on April 27, honors the dedicated individuals and organizations that rescue, rehabilitate, and protect marine mammals in distress. The day is an opportunity to further awareness of rescue efforts made by partner organizations in LA County such as the MMCC, Heal the Bay, and the California Wildlife Center, that help to rescue, rehabilitate, and return animals back into the ocean. This day also honors organizations and individuals, including veterinarians, researchers, scientists, wildlife biologists, animal care specialists, staff, and volunteers, who work tirelessly to contribute to the safe rescue and care of marine mammals.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim April 27, 2026, as “Marine Mammal Rescue Day” in the County of Los Angeles.
2. Encourage agencies, municipalities, and other organizations to adopt the “Coastal Partners Pledge” by visiting beaches.lacounty.gov/partnerpledge.

#

LH:rf