

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

April 4, 2017

Naming of the Duck-Billed Dinosaur as the Official State Dinosaur of California

A Legislative Bill AB 1540 (Bloom) was introduced in February 2017 to establish the duck-billed dinosaur (*Agustynolophus morrisoni*) as the official state dinosaur of California. Existing law establishes the state flag and the state's emblems, including, the saber-toothed cat *Smilodon californicus* as the official state fossil, which was designated in 1973. The proposed state dinosaur has many connections to the Los Angeles County's (County) Natural History Museum (NHM), which is home to the only-known two specimens, and the holotype is on display in the highly-visited Dinosaur Hall. Additional connections of the duck-billed dinosaur include the fact that *Agustynolophus morrisoni* is named after one of NHM's donors, Gretchen Agustyn, and NHM's Vice President of Research Collections, Dr. Luis Chiappe, was on the team that named the dinosaur. Naming of the duck-billed dinosaur as the official state dinosaur can benefit the NHM as visitors and scholars may be drawn to the NHM to learn more about it, and may inspire children to develop an interest in history and paleontology.

AB 1540 is scheduled to be heard on March 29, 2017. The County's Board of Supervisors should send a 5-signature letter to County's Legislative Delegation in Sacramento expressing the Board's strong support for AB 1540 (Bloom).

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Send a 5-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation to express strong support for AB 1540 (Bloom) to name the duck-billed dinosaur *Agustynolophus morrisoni* as the official state dinosaur of California.

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(CB/RT)

MOTION

SOLIS _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

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