

## RESOLUTION 7-2016

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT FOR TOPMINNOWS AND PUPFISH IN ARIZONA BETWEEN THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT AND THE U.S. WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE CITY OF BENSON**

WHEREAS, the Gila Topminnow and Desert Pupfish are two of 36 species that historically inhabited Arizona's waters prior to European-American settlement; and

WHEREAS, historically, topminnow were the most abundant fish species in the entire Gila River basin, occupying river systems from western New Mexico to southern and western Arizona, while Desert pupfish, not as common and widespread, occurred in portions of the lower Gila River basin, including the Salt, San Pedro, and Santa Cruz rivers as well as occurring along much of the lower Colorado River, from the Colorado River delta in the Gulf of California to current day Needles, California; and

WHEREAS, habitat loss and degradation resulted in the topminnow and pupfish populations rapidly decreasing despite their once broad distribution; with these fish currently inhabiting a fraction of their historic range. By the early 1900s, pupfish no longer existed in the wild in Arizona (with the exception of Quitoboquito), and Gila topminnow were reduced to only 14 locations; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly declining topminnow populations, and the likelihood of complete extinction, the Gila topminnow was federally listed as endangered in 1967 and two decades later, the desert pupfish was federally listed as endangered in 1986. Designating these species as endangered provided funding and defined actions or tools to be used for both topminnow and pupfish recovery. A recovery plan was drafted and accepted for each species; and

WHEREAS, using recommendations from the species' recovery plans, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and its partners are taking steps to increase populations of these species in hopes of removing them from the Endangered Species list in the future. Partner organizations include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; The Nature Conservancy; Native American tribes; state, county, and city agencies; private landowners, leasees and permittees; universities; non-governmental organizations; and, volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Benson as follows:

1. The "Safe Harbor Agreement for Topminnows and Pupfish in Arizona" attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is hereby approved and adopted.
2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the above-titled Agreement on behalf of the City of Benson.

3. City Staff are directed to take such necessary and reasonable actions to put into effect the terms and conditions of the above-titled Agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENSON, ARIZONA, this 28th day of March, 2016.

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TONEY D. KING SR., Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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VICKI L. VIVIAN, CMC, City Clerk

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MESCH, CLARK & ROTHSCHILD  
By GARY J. COHEN  
City's Attorney