UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
MAGA'HÅGA • GOVERNOR

JOSHUA F. TENORIO
SIGUNDO MAGA'LÅHI • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 25, 2019

35GL-19-0659
Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
JUN 25 2019
Time 3:02 ( )AM (V)PM
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Honorable Tina Rose Muna-Barnes
Speaker
35th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Executive Order 2019-16

Dear Madam Speaker:

Pursuant to Public Law 34-16, transmitted herewith is the following Executive Order:

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2019-16: RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING A NEW CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE GUAM'S CORAL REEFS FROM ALL THREATS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE

If you have any questions, please contact my office at # 475-9475.

Senseramente,

SOPHIA SANTOS DIAZ
Legal Counsel

cc: Governor of Guam, via email
Lt. Governor of Guam, via email
Compiler of Law, via email
Central Files, via email

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ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

Executive Order No. 2019-16

RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING A NEW CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE GUAM'S CORAL REEFS FROM ALL THREATS INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, Guam has experienced climate-induced coral bleaching in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2017 and extreme low tides in 2015, resulting in the loss of approximately 1/3 of all shallow corals around Guam; and

WHEREAS, impending threats to coral reefs including climate change, continue to put at risk this important natural resource that is vital to sustaining life on our island; and

WHEREAS, the continued decline of Guam's coral reefs will erode our island's competitiveness as a tourist destination and therefore adversely affect our community's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, given these ongoing challenges to the health of Guam's coral reefs and the sustainability of our community there is an urgent need to redirect and reshape coral reef management and conservation policy to more effectively build resilience to climate change and other threats; and

WHEREAS, a Coral Reef Resilience Working Group established by Executive Order 2019-09 to review the draft Coral Reef Resilience Strategy has completed its review and submitted to the Governor its findings and recommendations for a new Coral Reef Resilience Strategy for the Government of Guam; and

WHEREAS, the new Coral Reef Resilience Strategy will improve, coordinate, and set direction for the long term efforts of the Government of Guam in partnership with federal agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to carry out more effective resource management of Guam's coral reefs utilizing an approach that that is proactive, adaptive, strategic, community-based, and stakeholder-driven.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, and the laws of Guam, do order that the Coral Reef Resiliency Strategy, as recommended by the Coral Reef Resilience Working Group, shall be implemented with immediate effect upon the issuance of this Executive Order. Specifically, the Strategy shall be used to accomplish the following outcomes:

1. Achieve effective fisheries management by improving the condition of reef fish communities and protecting the sustainability of fisheries for current and future generations.

2. Decrease land-based sources of pollution by reducing the introduction of sediment, nutrients, and pollution from coastal development, fires, land-based recreational users, and agriculture in Guam's watersheds.

Doc. No. 35GL-19-0659.

3. Increase reef response and restoration by responding rapidly and effectively to acute impacts and restoring coral reef habitats to preserve the viability of coral communities.

4. Establish sustainable recreational use and tourism by reducing impacts of recreational use and misuse and promoting sustainable recreational use of coral reef resources.

5. Champion human community resilience and climate change adaptation by increasing the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change while facilitating sustainable economic development and preserving culture, traditions, and ways of life.

Signed and Promulgated at Tumon, Guam, this 25th day of June, 2019.

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Åkto Sigundo Maga'hågan Guåhan
Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam

Doc. No. 35GL-19-0659.