



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 25, 2026

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Honoring The Public Service Of Richard Retecki**

Whereas, Richard Retecki has dedicated more than fifty-five years of service to improving the quality of life, environmental health, and preservation of Sonoma County's extraordinary natural landscapes; and

Whereas, he played an influential role in establishing Sonoma County's modern land-use conservation framework, advancing policies that promote city-centered growth, community separators, agricultural preservation, open-space acquisition, environmental resource planning, coastal protection, regional parks, and increased public access to natural lands; and

Whereas, he brought ecological and natural resource science directly into public decision-making, helping guide where and how Sonoma County should grow; and

Whereas, his work helped shape Sonoma County's enduring model of concentrating development around cities while maintaining community separators and protecting rural and agricultural landscapes, supporting climate-friendly and energy-efficient land use; and

Whereas, he helped establish the foundation for lasting institutions and programs that have acquired and protected open space, expanded parks, and increased public access to the Sonoma Coast and the Russian River; and

Whereas, he championed responsible stewardship of Sonoma County's natural

resources by advocating for coastal development limits, preventing offshore oil leasing, limiting inappropriate gravel mining, and advancing environmental impact analysis and conservation initiatives; and

Whereas, he worked collaboratively with the community, local land trusts, public agencies, elected officials, and professional colleagues to build consensus and lasting coalitions and policies that protect Sonoma County's environment, prevent urban sprawl, and preserve the County's unique character and quality of life; and

Whereas, he provided invaluable leadership, expertise, and public service through his work with the County of Sonoma, the State Coastal Conservancy, and other public agencies; and

Whereas, he has strengthened the community through volunteer service, including coaching Little League baseball, leading educational hikes, and serving in nonprofit governance; and

Whereas, in partnership with a friend, he conceived the idea for Sebastopol's Peace Wall, worked to establish it as an official City institution, helped with its construction, and has continued to support Sebastopol's annual Peace Wall event; and

Whereas, Richard Retecki's vision, integrity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service have left a lasting legacy that will continue to benefit the people, communities, and natural resources of Sonoma County for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors hereby honors Richard Retecki for his extraordinary lifetime of public service, environmental leadership, and enduring contributions to the preservation, stewardship, and quality of life of Sonoma County, and extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation for his more than fifty-five years of dedicated service to the people and environment of Sonoma County.

Be It Further Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors proclaims this Gold Resolution in recognition of Richard Retecki's exceptional achievements and

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with its highest respect, admiration, and appreciation.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.