



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: August 8, 2026

Item Number: 2026-0757

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Honoring
Bob and Shirley Dempel Upon the Dedication of the 2026 Sonoma County Fair Guidebook.
(Countywide)**

Whereas, the Sonoma County Fair celebrates the people, traditions, and agricultural achievements that have shaped Sonoma County, and each year dedicates its official Guidebook to individuals whose contributions reflect the Fair's enduring commitment to agriculture, education, and community; and

Whereas, the 2026 Sonoma County Fair Guidebook is dedicated to Bob and Shirley Dempel in recognition of their extraordinary lifetime of leadership, agricultural stewardship, education, and service to the people of Sonoma County; and

Whereas, for more than five decades, Bob and Shirley have been prominent and respected leaders in Sonoma County agriculture, helping shape the region's viticultural landscape while supporting the continued growth and success of California's wine grape industry; and

Whereas, Bob and Shirley's connection to agriculture began during their youth as members of 4-H and grew into a shared life devoted to farming, education, advocacy, and the advancement of future generations; and

Whereas, in 1977, Bob and Shirley founded Dempel Farming, establishing premium vineyards and developing one of the first nurseries in the region to be certified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and

Whereas, through Dempel Farming, Bob and Shirley became known for their commitment to sustainable grape growing, environmental responsibility, innovation, land stewardship, and excellence in agricultural production; and

Whereas, their work established a high standard for vineyard management and nursery operations while contributing to the strength, quality, and reputation of Sonoma County's agricultural economy; and

Whereas, Shirley has made lasting contributions to agricultural education and youth development through her leadership in local 4-H programs and her role in founding the Sonoma County 4-H Foundation; and

Whereas, through the Sonoma County 4-H Foundation, Shirley helped create educational opportunities, resources, and support systems that continue to inspire young people and prepare future generations of agricultural and community leaders; and

Whereas, Bob has provided influential leadership and advocacy at the statewide level, helping shape agricultural policy and secure support for growers, agricultural education, and programs benefiting farming communities; and

Whereas, Bob and Shirley's contributions extend far beyond their vineyards and agricultural enterprises, reflecting a lifelong commitment to mentorship, youth development, community enrichment, and the preservation of Sonoma County's agricultural heritage; and

Whereas, Bob and Shirley have previously received the Lifetime Contribution to Sonoma County Agriculture Award, further recognizing their enduring influence and exceptional service to the agricultural community; and

Whereas, throughout their many years of service, Bob and Shirley have remained humble, generous, and steadfast in their dedication to agriculture, education, environmental stewardship, and the well-being of their community; and

Whereas, dedicating the 2026 Sonoma County Fair Guidebook to Bob and Shirley Dempel is a fitting tribute to their remarkable partnership, their lifetime of achievement, and the lasting legacy they have created for Sonoma County.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma honors

Bob and Shirley Dempel upon the dedication of the 2026 Sonoma County Fair Guidebook and recognizes their exceptional lifetime of leadership, agricultural stewardship, education, advocacy, and community service.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors extends its sincere gratitude to Bob and Shirley Dempel for their enduring contributions to Sonoma County agriculture and congratulates them on this well-deserved and meaningful recognition.

Supervisors:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.