



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 3, 2025

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Commending Gary Graves for his Outstanding Dedication to Education, Athletics, and the Mark West Creek and Greater Watershed

Whereas, Gary Graves has been a groundbreaking teacher, mentor, and coach for 35 years; and

Whereas, he founded both the Mark West School Watershed Program and the distinguished Noon League Program, which remains highly attended to this day; and

Whereas, throughout his long career, Mr. Graves brought the proud Mark West Tigers many championships, collaborated with watershed leaders, and inspired several generations of watershed stewards; and

Whereas, he has demonstrated exceptional passion and dedication to watershed science, environmental education, and the health of the Mark West Creek watershed; and

Whereas, he has inspired countless students by providing hands-on science education in and around Mark West Creek, engaging youth in the study of hydrology, water quality, and salmonid health through immersive, real-world learning experiences; and

Whereas, Mr. Graves has been a long-standing leader in the Steelhead in the Classroom program, facilitating weekly field-based lessons that connect students to nature and promote environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, his innovative classroom projects have challenged students to form multidisciplinary teams—composed of hydrologists, botanists, biologists, and geologists—to address real community challenges such as severe bank erosion, all through a lens of restoration and scientific collaboration; and

Whereas, Mr. Graves has not only educated but also mentored youth, many of whom have gone on to pursue careers in science, biology, and environmental fields, citing his teaching as a foundational influence; and

Whereas, former students and colleagues alike describe Mr. Graves as a solution-oriented, joyful, and empowering educator whose teachings extend beyond the classroom to inform work in sustainability, land regeneration, and social justice; and

Whereas, Mr. Graves' enthusiastic participation in Sonoma Water's education programs and his tireless efforts to provide exceptional learning opportunities for his students make him an extraordinary role model and a cherished community leader.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, hereby commends Gary Graves for his exemplary service to environmental and school education, his steadfast commitment to the health of our local watersheds, and his profound impact on the lives of his students and the broader Sonoma County community.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt:	Coursey:	Gore:	Hopkins:	Gorin:
Ayes:	Noes:	Absent:	Abstain:	

So Ordered.