



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 14, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☒ Majority Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Recognizing Dr. Stephanie Larson For 40 Years Of Service
To The University Of California Of Sonoma County.**

Whereas, for 40 years Stephanie Larson has advocated for managed grazing on public and private ranch lands. Dr. Stephanie Larson has spent more than 40 years working for UC Cooperative Extension to address opportunities and issues that California ranchers face in their agricultural businesses.

Whereas her interdisciplinary approach to issues facing livestock producers, rangeland owners and managers, and the public has aimed to maintain and increase the sustainability of agriculture systems and the environment, with a particular focus on ecosystem services in counties under threat from encroachment by urban development; and

Whereas, as State Certified Rangeland Manager (#73), She has held countless workshops, seminars, and field studies to improve livestock production while protecting the ecosystem of Sonoma County's 500,000 acres of designated farmland; and

Whereas, she has worked with ranchers on predator control studies using livestock guard dogs, electric fencing, and other practices to reduce losses from coyotes and other livestock predators; and

Whereas, in 1995, Dr. Larson was honored with the UCCE Distinguished Service, Outstanding Teaching Farm Advisor acknowledgement and in 2017 Society for Range Management named her as Range Manager of the Year; and

Whereas, throughout her career she has received several awards and honors for her service and academia, some of the notable include: 1996 Golden Fleece, CA Woolgrowers Association, 1998 CF Industries National Watershed Award, Terrene Institute, 2009 Outstanding Ph.D. Student, Oregon State University, 2012 Western Extension Directors Association Award of Excellence for programs to address

nonpoint sources of pollution on rangelands, 2015 Sonoma County Harvest Fair, Friend of Sonoma County Agriculture, 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award – Research/Academia, Society for Range Management 2024 Eric Bradford & Charlie Rominger Agricultural Sustainability Leadership Award, 2026 Chair of the Society for Range Management International meeting; and

Whereas, she currently serves on the statewide Certified Rangeland Manager Certification Panel and throughout her career she has made it a point to mentor and teach others rangeland managers and aspiring agriculturalist. She has served as a past Director of the Society for Range Management; and

Whereas, following the 2017 Firestorms and emergencies, Dr. Larson led efforts to educate the public on the importance of managed parcels of land, both small- and large-scale. Her work has gravitated toward two land management practices for the long-term sustainability of forest and rangelands: grazing and prescribed burning; and

Whereas, she has led two educational and research-based efforts utilizing grazing and fire on working lands: Match.Graze, an online platform to assist livestock grazers in finding lands to graze and landowners, with no livestock, in finding animals to reduce vegetation; and a geospatial web application to assist local landowners and managers prioritize and plan fuels reduction activities; and

Whereas, Dr. Larson's passion for her community is evident not only through her sustainability efforts, but also through humanitarian efforts. Dr. Larson, joined with ranchers Cheryl LaFranchi and Dr. Frank Mongini to develop the Range-to-Table program which annually donates 20,000 pounds of ground beef to the Redwood Empire Food Bank to feed those in need; and

Whereas, she has been a staunch supporter of the Sonoma County 4-H program, which is under the direction of the University of California Cooperative Extension and supports future leaders and future land stewards.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, as a certified rangeland manager, The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors applauds Dr. Larson science-based approach to grazing and advocating its many benefits including fire mitigation, biodiversity, preservation of native grasses and carbon sequestration and thanks Dr. Larson for working with land managers, helping them to make sound ecologic decisions about managing working landscapes for the benefit of all users; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors commends Dr. Stephanie Larson for her impactful career with the UC Cooperative Extension and

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thanks her for her ongoing service to the community of Sonoma and Marin Counties and wishes her well in future endeavors and retirement.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.