



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: October 4, 2022

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,

Whereas 2022 marks the 40th year of the University of California's Master Gardener Program in Sonoma County; from its beginnings in 1982, the Master Gardeners have reached out to the home gardener in Sonoma County to deliver science-based solutions and education for horticultural concerns.

Whereas, the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County is a leader in sustainable gardening outreach that customizes curriculum to meet the needs of Sonoma County's residents; and reaches a wide array of community members through their website, social media channels, free webinars, workshops and lectures, information tables, the centralized Help Desk and more.

Whereas, over 250 active volunteers of the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County are devoted to preserving Sonoma County's precious resources; including mitigating impacts of climate change, educating on defensible space, conserving water, minimizing pesticide use, and reducing green waste in our landfills; and during the COVID emergency pivoted to webinars and videos to reach our community, but also remained in contact with the community through the Help Desk, an important channel to answer gardener's questions in "real time."

Whereas, the outreach provided by the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County is making a positive difference in food security in Sonoma County; teaching residents how to grow edible plants, expand the type of varieties grown, and reducing produce loss in home and community gardens; and the UC Master Gardeners make available Spanish language content on food gardening.

Whereas, people in communities across Sonoma County are applying more sustainable landscaping practices in their yards, schools, and community gardens because of the impactful outreach by the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County, including the award-winning Garden Sense Program, underwritten by Sonoma Water, has completed over 1500 home visits since its inception in 2013 and has resulted in, conservatively estimated, over 52 million gallons

of water savings by educating on lawn removal, conversion to drip irrigation and utilization of low water use plants for a drought tolerant landscape.

Whereas, the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County provides a direct link between local communities and the University, fostering a local community connection to UC academics, resources, and research; and thus, the UC Master Gardener Program brings the latest best practices sustainable landscape practices and climate change preparedness for the home gardener to the County of Sonoma.

Whereas, the outreach provided by the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County will continue to have a positive impact on our communities and residents.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that this October 4, 2022, as UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County day, and hereby call upon all Board of Supervisors of California thereof to render support to the members of this organization and to make themselves aware of the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County, whose volunteers are providing meaningful outreach to our homes, schools, and community.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Hopkins:

Gore:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.