County of Sonoma
State of California

Date: July 9, 2026

Item Number: 2026-0402

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Congratulating Sylvia Parkinson Upon Being Named The Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Friend Of The Sonoma County Farm Bureau

Whereas, Sylvia Parkinson has been named the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Friend of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau in recognition of her unwavering support, generosity, and commitment to Sonoma County agriculture; and

Whereas, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau depends on friends, allies, and associate members who help strengthen the organization's advocacy, educational programs, community partnerships, and efforts to protect local family farms; and

Whereas, Sylvia Parkinson has been a platinum member of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau since 2017 and has become an essential part of its network through her consistent support of fundraising efforts, events, and programs that benefit the agricultural community; and

Whereas, as the owner and operator of ATL Events, Sylvia provides lighting, sound, staging, audio-visual services, and drapery for events throughout the region, while also bringing care, creativity, professionalism, and heart to the organizations she supports; and

Whereas, Sylvia's connection to agriculture is rooted in her childhood growing up on a farm in Penngrove, where she learned responsibility through caring for cows and chickens and

developed a lasting appreciation for rural life, animals, local food, and the peace and joy found in farm life; and

Whereas, Sylvia's rural Sonoma County upbringing instilled in her empathy, a strong desire to give back, and a belief that people have a responsibility to understand where their food comes from; and

Whereas, Sylvia continues to support local agriculture by shopping at farmers' markets, buying local meat, eggs, and produce, and purchasing animals at the Sonoma County Fair Junior Livestock Auction; and

Whereas, Sylvia shares many qualities with Sonoma County farmers and ranchers, including a strong work ethic, long hours, resilience, adaptability, and a deep commitment to meeting the needs of the community; and

Whereas, ATL Events is itself a multi-generational family business, founded in 1982 by Sylvia's father, Russ Mitchell, with help from her grandfather, Don Okeson, and later carried forward by Sylvia when she took the reins of the company in 2023; and

Whereas, as one of only a handful of women operating audio-visual companies on the West Coast, Sylvia has demonstrated leadership, determination, and a willingness to meet challenges head-on while growing a business that helps bring community events, celebrations, and fundraising efforts to life; and

Whereas, Sylvia's work with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau has gone beyond providing light and sound, as she has become woven into the fabric of the organization through her enthusiasm, generosity, advocacy, and belief in supporting youth and families involved in agriculture; and

Whereas, Sylvia has taken great pride in helping the Farm Bureau raise more than one million dollars, recognizing that these funds support young people in agriculture and strengthen the broader Sonoma County community; and

Whereas, Sonoma County Farm Bureau leaders describe Sylvia as a stalwart supporter of Farm Bureau and Sonoma County agriculture, an advocate who understands the importance of agriculture in the county, and someone who is always ready to step up on behalf of the community; and

Whereas, Sylvia's generosity, loyalty, and commitment reflect the spirit of true friendship, partnership, and service, making her deeply deserving of recognition as the 2026 Friend of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau; and

Whereas, through her support of agriculture, youth, community events, and local food systems, Sylvia Parkinson has helped strengthen the connection between Sonoma County's agricultural heritage and the broader community;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma hereby congratulates Sylvia Parkinson upon being named the Sonoma County Farm Bureau's 2026 Friend of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and expresses its sincere appreciation for her generosity, advocacy, and steadfast support of Sonoma County agriculture.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Supervisors joins the Sonoma County Farm Bureau in honoring Sylvia Parkinson for her friendship, leadership, community spirit, and dedication to uplifting the farmers, ranchers, youth, and families who carry Sonoma County's agricultural legacy forward.

Supervisors:

Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Hermosillo:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.