



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 13, 2019

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____



4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, In Recognition of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on its 50th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park became part of the State Park System in 1964, and was fully opened to the public over Memorial Day Weekend in 1969, and has since provided access to its ecologically and recreationally diverse parkland for the benefit of the public, including the many residents of growing communities in nearby Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park is celebrating 50 years as part of the California State Park system, now encompassing over 4,000 acres in the Mayacamas Mountains in north Sonoma Valley, including over 25 miles of hiking trails, a family-friendly campground, panoramic views from the 2,700-foot peak of Bald Mountain, one of the largest volunteer-run astronomical observatories in the world, lush meadows, redwood and oak forests, abundant habitat for native species from wildflowers to black bears, a 25-foot waterfall, and multiple streams including the headwaters of Sonoma and Santa Rosa creeks; and

WHEREAS, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park has a rich cultural history, including Native American use as a seasonal settlement for 10,000 years, use by European settlers for homesteads and ranches from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s, purchase by the State for water storage and use as a Boy Scout camp until in the 1960's, when Jack London descendant Milo Shepard became head ranger of the new state park; and

WHEREAS, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park's most recent chapter began in 2012, with transfer of operations to Team Sugarloaf, a consortium of five nonprofits led by Sonoma Ecology Center, which reopened the park after its closure due to state budget shortfalls, and started Sugarloaf's current era as a state-owned, community-operated park; and

WHEREAS, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park established and has continued to improve trails, facilities and services through the years, becoming a crown jewel in the State Park system, one of Sonoma County's great public resources, and a model of collaboration between the state and the community; and

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WHEREAS, the existence of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park has been instrumental in the conservation, preservation, and restoration of critical ecological and human cultural resources, and will continue to protect and share these public trust resources into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County recognizes Sugarloaf Ridge State Park on its 50th Anniversary and commends its role in protecting and preserving this irreplaceable community resource.

Supervisor Susan Gorin

Supervisor James Gore

Supervisor Shirlee Zane

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Supervisor David Rabbitt, Chair