



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

Date: October 22, 2019

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,  
Honoring First 5 Sonoma County As The Recipient Of North Bay Leadership Council's  
2019 Leaders Of The North Bay Award For "From Red Tape To Red Carpet:  
Leadership In Government."**

WHEREAS, First 5 Sonoma County, a public agency established by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with California statute, works with a broad range of stakeholders to strategically invest funding in community-based organizations serving children, prenatal to five years; and

WHEREAS, the First 5 Sonoma County Commission has demonstrated the kind of leadership in government that meets the highest standards of public service, integrity and stewardship of public funds; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Commissioners and staff, led by Commission Chair, Kelly Bass Seibel, spent over thirteen months conducting an in-depth fiscal analysis, consulting community leaders and stakeholders and working with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to amend the County's original ordinance to reestablish First 5 as an independent public agency, separate from the County of Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, the Commission developed a compelling proposition for restructuring First 5 to save millions of dollars in administrative costs in the next ten years. These savings are to be re-directed to sustain community based services that ensure that our youngest residents are healthy, nurtured, ready to succeed in school, and on a positive trajectory for life; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Sonoma County has invested over \$100 million in Proposition 10 revenue to build an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs, preventative health services and support for parents and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, in the face of declining revenues from Prop. 10, the First 5 Commission acted with urgency, creativity, determination and courage to undergo a structural change to improve First 5 Sonoma County's long-term financial outlook and capacity to fund critical services. Thereby ensuring the future of Sonoma County students and children; and

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WHEREAS, as a newly independent public agency as of July 1, 2019, the First 5 Commission has achieved “rightsizing” by streamlining redundant and costly administrative processes, has significantly reduced staffing costs and rebuilt the agency’s business processes from the ground up to support highly efficient operation going forward; and

WHEREAS, this change has allowed the Commission to target resources quickly to address emerging community needs; to fund innovative approaches to children’s well-being and family resiliency; to collaborate with other local funders to leverage and maximize community investments; and, to seek new sources of revenue that can be strategically directed to ensure that all children in Sonoma County are ready to learn as they enter our education system at kindergarten.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors commends and honors First 5 Sonoma County as the recipient of North Bay Leadership Council’s 2019 Leaders of the North Bay Award for “From Red Tape to Red Carpet: Leadership in Government.”

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Zane:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**