



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: April 20, 2021

Item Number: _____
Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of
California, Honoring Maureen Cottingham on her Excellence in Leadership of
Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance**

Whereas, Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance Executive Director Maureen Cottingham will be stepping down from her position after nearly seventeen years of leadership for the Sonoma Valley's wine marketing organization; and

Whereas, Maureen Cottingham has been a dedicated and accomplished wine industry and community leader working closely with members, partners, government, media, industry groups, as well as wine supporters; and

Whereas, during her tenure with the SVVGA Maureen Cottingham was instrumental in raising over \$25 million for children's literacy programs and non-profits in Sonoma Valley and across Sonoma County through Sonoma Wine Country Weekend and the Sonoma Harvest Wine Auction; and

Whereas, Maureen Cottingham provided critical crisis response and support to the winegrowing community during the Sonoma County wildfires, PSPS events and the global pandemic; and

Whereas, Maureen Cottingham raised awareness of Sonoma Valley excellence in winegrowing and winemaking, history, and highlighted the legendary vintners and growers with the "The Roots Run Deep" brand campaign, Legends Video Series, Sonoma Valley Vineyard Map project with wine critic and founder of Vinous, Antonio Galloni and world-renowned cartographer Alessandro Masnaghetti, and Signature Sonoma Valley events; and

Whereas, Maureen Cottingham secured the largest grant ever received by the trade organization, a California Specialty Crop Block Grant and restructured the organization's membership and financial position; and

Whereas, Maureen Cottingham has dedicated herself personally and professionally to supporting youth in agriculture stewarding SVVGA scholarships and fundraising support of the Sonoma Valley High School Agriculture Pathway, farm and vineyard and Sonoma Future Farmers of America.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby Congratulate Maureen Cottingham on her excellence in leadership of Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers and offer congratulations as she steps into a new leadership role managing her family's multi-generation farming operation continuing her commitment to California agriculture.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.