



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: November 16, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Honoring Michele Luna For 27 Years Of Service To The Community As Leader And Executive
Director of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (formerly Stewards of Slavianka)**

Whereas, Michele joined Stewards of Slavianka in 1994 as its sole employee and has continuously served in leadership roles advancing to Executive Director of the organization, which formally changed its name to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods in 2003; and

Whereas, Michele has been an advocate for protecting natural resources in Sonoma County, advancing their stewardship, and devoting a major part of her life working for the conservation and improvement of the natural environment in the West County California State Parks that Stewards serves; and

Whereas, Michele has been passionate about ensuring ongoing attention to and care for the special natural resources, from the forest to the sea, that we all enjoy in the Russian River Sector of California State Parks, including Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Austin Creek State Recreation Area and Sonoma Coast State Park, encompassing 29,331 acres of coast, redwood groves and parkland, along with their connecting watersheds; and

Whereas, for almost three decades Michele has led Stewards to ensure that its mission to “promote preservation through environmental education and stewardship in support of California State Parks’ Russian River Sector” is always front and center in planning, decision-making and implementation; and

Whereas, Michele has led Stewards to build thriving citizen science and docent-led interpretive programs, with Stewards’ public education programs touching the lives of more than

120,000 park visitors a year including 8,000 youth, and with training and support to 250 volunteer docents and stewards who give over 10,000 hours annually, appreciably increasing the parks' organizational capacity; and

Whereas, Michele has helped ensure that Stewards' activities are focused on engaging Sonoma County children and youth, including those in underserved communities, to enrich park experiences, remove barriers to access, and encourage a lifetime of stewardship; and

Whereas, California State Parks has recognized Michele's leadership with a DeWitt Park Partnership award to Stewards in 2013 for its "high level of commitment over a substantial period toward accomplishing State Parks' mission," and the current State Parks' Superintendent for the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District Terry Bertels has shared that "Under Michele's leadership, Stewards' steadfast partnership and support for California State Parks have been critically important for stewardship of our natural resources, park operations, and environmental education, including during these upending times".

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors hereby expresses the highest gratitude for Michele Luna's excellent public service provided to the Fifth District and to community members countywide.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.