

RESOLUTION NO. 11-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HONORING JAY THORWALDSON, EDITOR OF THE *PALO ALTO WEEKLY*, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDING OF THE DISTRICT AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE LANDS ON THE PENINSULA

WHEREAS, since the age of three, Jay Thorwaldson has explored the ridges, valleys and hilltops of the Santa Cruz Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the incredible views of the Santa Clara Valley from his mountain explorations allowed him to bear witness to the Valley’s orchards giving way to homes and highways; and

WHEREAS, as a young reporter for the *Palo Alto Times*, Jay Thorwaldson gave voice to an idea for the creation of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by writing a pivotal editorial, published February 16, 1970, encouraging the creation of a district that would collect taxes to buy and preserve land in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties; and

WHEREAS, Jay Thorwaldson’s ongoing discussions with Nonette Hanko, a Palo Alto resident passionate about preserving land, encouraged and challenged her and others into community action that helped make the idea presented in his editorial a reality; and

WHEREAS, for 50 years, Jay Thorwaldson has upheld the highest standards of responsible, professional journalism as a fearless reporter and tireless editor, earning the trust of the community, giving a voice to those who are not heard, asking the hard questions and telling the important stories; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Jay Thorwaldson has used the power of the press to inform local citizens and officials and effect positive change in his community; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2011, Jay Thorwaldson retired from his position as editor of the *Palo Alto Weekly*, leaving in his journalistic wake an award-winning “newspaper worth reading”, countless mentored employees, thousands of stories, columns, editorials and many important “scoops”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as he rides off into the sunset of retirement on his motorcycle with a treasure trove of stories from his experiences as a journalist, that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s Board of Directors does hereby honor Jay Thorwaldson’s contributions to the preservation of tens of thousands of acres of public open space in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, not only for the plants and animals, but for all of us who venture into the hills and encounter, not private property signs and barbed wire as Jay did as an adventurous child, but rather hundreds of miles of open public trails through unspoiled natural lands.

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