

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HONORING THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY
OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY FOR TWENTY YEARS OF
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (Open Space Authority), which serves the Cities of Campbell, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, and San Jose, and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, was formed on February 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Authority was founded by passionate, civic-minded citizens to preserve the natural environment and formally created by the California Legislature with the purpose of protecting sensitive lands, preserving natural communities, and managing open space in ways that also promote agriculture and compatible recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Authority, in partnership with community members, nonprofits, and other agencies, has conscientiously and selectively preserved over 16,000 acres of critical open space lands in Santa Clara County, including mountain tops, rolling hills, ranches, and farmland; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Authority is responsible for the plants, animals, water and soil resources, and cultural and recreational assets of its land as highlighted by its management of Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve comprised of over 1,600 acres of vital watershed lands that protect Penitencia Creek and provide habitat to red-legged frog, tiger salamander, golden eagle, mountain lion, bobcat, and grey fox; and

WHEREAS, access to open space and healthy recreation is offered through multi-use trails for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians on Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space Preserve west of Morgan Hill and Sierra Vista in the east foothills with trails open free of charge every day of the year; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years, the Open Space Authority has invested millions of dollars in local communities through its Urban Open Space Program to fund urban trails, parks, greenbelt protection, and restoration projects, thus extending the benefits of nature to city residents, and;

WHEREAS, the Open Space Authority remains a committed and effective advocate for policies that protect our environment and offers volunteer opportunities for people to take an active role as ambassadors of nature;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does hereby commend and congratulate the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority for its 20 years of contributing to the health and well-being of its community with its common sense approach to urban growth balanced with the preservation of public lands for generations to come, and extends its most sincere wishes and encouragement for continued success.

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