

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution

Honoring *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor*

Upon their selection as the *2012 King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Business of the Year*

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* was founded by a group of second generation Salinas Valley Farmers comprised of John Romans, Stan Pura, David Gill and Mike Hitchcock; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* expanded beyond their farming operations and began Big Valley Labor, with the help of John “Buffalo” Ramirez to provide labor for their farming and harvesting operations; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* are one of the premier labor contractors in the Salinas Valley, providing labor to a number of local farmers and jobs for the local economy; Mission Ranches operates a seed division that produces conventional and organic seeds for their use and re-sale; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* also invest in other harvesting operations and marketing companies where they sell the products that they produce, in 1986 Mission Ranches partnered with several other Salinas Valley farming operations to form Growers Express in Salinas and merged with Sam McKinsey Farms in 2007;and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* through Growers Express went on to be a licensed partner of Green Giant Fresh; it still continues to produce products under the Green Giant Fresh Label, the most recognized brand in America; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* continually innovate their farming and labor operations and are one of the nation’s largest green onion growers, it has been John Roman's farming techniques that have revolutionized the way onions are grown, through refined fertilizing and planting methods, he has significantly increased yields; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* first began farming a small area of the Spreckels' Sugar Company land in King City, starting with twenty-five percent of their land in sugar beets and the rest in head lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and garlic, their farming operations eventually evolved to more than eleven thousand acres in the Salinas Valley, Imperial Valley and in Yuma, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* have a diverse growing expertise, which includes a portfolio of conventional and organic commodities such as lettuce, romaine, broccoli, cauliflower, green onions and mixed lettuce, they also grow specialty items such as spring mix, spinach, bok choy, napa cabbage, endive, escarole, celery and garlic; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* were one of the first growers in the Salinas Valley to start growing tender leaf salads, including baby spinach and spring mix, Mission Ranches’ partner Stan Pura is credited with bringing modern Spring Mix and Spinach growing and harvesting technology to the United States from Europe, the technology is memorialized in a current exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute called “Food: Transforming America’s Table 1950 – 2000”; and

WHEREAS, *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* support numerous community activities in and around the Salinas Valley, they were major funders in refinishing the King City High School Track and have given more than \$100,000 for the support of the Salinas Valley Fair Heritage Foundation, and are large supporters of the Salinas Valley and San Benito County Fairs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all citizens thereof, congratulates *Mission Ranches and Big Valley Labor* upon their selection as the 2012 King City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Business of the Year, and wishes them continued success in all of their future endeavors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the ____day of _____, 2013, upon the motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

I, Gail Borkowski, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof at page ____ of Minute Book _____, on _____.

Dated:

Gail Borkowski, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey, State of California.

By _____
Deputy