

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

**Resolution No.**

Adopt Resolution in honor and recognition of )  
**Kerstin Wasson, Ph.D**, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve )  
2018 National Wetlands Award for Science Research.....)

**WHEREAS**, On May 9, 2018 **Kerstin Wasson, Ph.D**, Research Coordinator for the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve received the 2018 National Wetlands Award for Science Research, which was presented by the Environmental Law Institute in a ceremony at the U.S. Botanic Gardens in Washington, D.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, The prestigious award recognizes **Dr. Kerstin Wasson's** extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of our nation's wetlands. "The recipients of the National Wetlands Awards are on the forefront of protecting wetland resources in the face of development and climate impacts," says ELI President Scott Fulton. "Through their dedication and achievements, they inspire wetlands protection across the country and worldwide;" and

**WHEREAS**, For more than 18 years, **Dr. Kerstin Wasson** has distinguished herself as a researcher, conservationist, and mentor at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve — one of California's few remaining coastal wetlands and the largest tract of tidal salt marsh south of San Francisco Bay — and as a leader of collaborative projects that span the network of National Estuarine Reserve Reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Kerstin Wasson's** work at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve includes developing and implementing comprehensive long-term monitoring programs, facilitating research by other scientists, mentoring student researchers, informing coastal decisionmakers, and guiding an ambitious ecosystem-based management initiative to restore vanishing tidal wetlands. In addition to these responsibilities, she also maintains her own active research projects in wetland conservation, focusing on threats to estuarine ecosystems and species; and

**WHEREAS**, with her counterpart from the Rhode Island National Estuarine Reserve, **Dr. Kerstin Wasson** led a national assessment of salt marsh resilience to sea level rise, synthesizing consistently collected data from 15 Reserves in a publication that received national attention. Now Wasson and her colleagues are conducting replicated restoration experiments at eight of these Reserves to test strategies for enhancing salt marsh resilience in the face of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, **Dr. Kerstin Wasson** also leads pioneering work on the ecology and restoration of native oysters in California bays and estuaries, and has developed a network of collaborators on the Pacific coast, from Baja California to British Columbia, who have authored a series of publications for scientific and management audiences; and

**WHEREAS**, as a key part of her work at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve, **Dr. Kerstin Wasson** coordinates a comprehensive long-term monitoring program for Elkhorn Slough, engaging volunteers in all aspects of the work, from collecting water quality data to counting migratory shorebirds to tracking nesting at a heron rookery. With Wasson's support and guidance, two of these citizen scientists recently published a peer-reviewed paper on sea otter behavior and ecology in an esteemed scientific journal.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all citizens thereof, is pleased to honor and recognize **Dr. Kerstin Wasson** for receiving

the 2018 National Wetlands Award for Science Research. Congratulation on being recognized for the work you do on behalf of conservation and restoration of our nation's wetlands.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this xx<sup>th</sup> day of July 2018, upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original resolution of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book for the meeting on July xx, 2018.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_