Before the Board of Supervisors County of Monterey, State of California

Resolution 21-____

Adopt a Resolution declaring the month of July)
2021 as Parks Make Life Better! Month in the)
County of Monterey)

WHEREAS, Monterey County's parks reflect and celebrate the local community's character, cultural heritage, history, and arts and preserve the diverse natural environment, open space, and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations;

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey provides positive, healthy venues in its outdoor parks and open space for individuals of all ages to exercise, play, and participate in individual or group activities, or simply to be inspired by Nature, all activities that promote physical, emotional, and mental health and wellness;

WHEREAS, the County Parks division of the Department of Public Works, Facilities & Parks fosters social cohesiveness and strengthens community identity by celebrating diversity, and providing spaces for children, adults, seniors, families, community organizations, and visitors to come together peacefully, modeling compassion, promoting social equity, connecting social networks, and ensuring all people have access to a wide range of facilities, amenities, and services;

WHEREAS, County Parks supports the economic viability of communities and remains versatile and innovative in providing vital services to area communities, even during times of local, national, and global emergency, and especially as demonstrated over the last sixteen months, by providing an essential outdoor respite for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, County park users value safe, well planned and designed, and properly maintained parks and associated facilities, and County Parks actively operates and manages its parks to meet those expectations;

WHEREAS, these efforts comprise: 1) conducting a wide reaching Ranger enforcement patrol program at County parks; 2) pursuing available grants and other funding sources to best maintain and improve the County parks system, including recently available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for utility infrastructure upgrades, State Parks Project grant funds for park improvements and accessibility to parks, and State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways funds for replacement of a patrol vessel for marine enforcement, safety patrols, and emergency response; and 3) promoting participation in the County Parks Volunteer Program to supplement services provided by Parks staff to enhance the outdoor recreation experience of park user and protect the viability of the parks' natural resources and historic sites; WHEREAS, the month of July is celebrated across the nation as *Parks Make Life Better! Month*, and the National Recreation and Parks Association and the California Park & Recreation Society have promoted this national and statewide public awareness campaign to inform people of the many benefits of utilizing park facilities, programs, and services;

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey urges its residents to recognize that our County parks and the associated recreational opportunities they provide, add significant value to local communities and neighborhoods and enrich the daily lives of everyone who uses them, and

WHEREAS, in recognition and support of the importance of access to our local County parks and the benefits that the outdoor recreational opportunities afford all users, the County Board of Supervisors waived entry fees to several County parks for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and adopts this resolution to promote awareness of the County's wonderful regional park system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims July 2021 as *Parks Make Life Better! Month* in Monterey County and urges everyone to visit and enjoy the County's unique parks, trails, open space, and facilities, and to take full advantage of our amazing local recreational settings to promote personal development and physical, emotional, and mental health and wellness.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of July 2021, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors NOES: ABSENT: (Government Code 54943)

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 12, 2021.

Dated: July , 2021 File ID: RES 21-Agenda Item: Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Monterey, State of California

By _____ Deputy