

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

**Resolution No.:**

Adopt a resolution recognizing **Mark Silberstein** for his 43-year career with the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation.

**WHEREAS**, after completing graduate studies in Marine Zoology and Ecology at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, **Mark Silberstein** developed a volunteer program in Elkhorn Slough for the Nature Conservancy in the early 1980s, thus launching a four-decade pursuit of conservation and restoration of the Slough; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mark Silberstein** was subsequently hired as the first Research and Education Coordinator for the newly established Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1983, bringing along a cadre of dedicated community members to begin building programs; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mark Silberstein** worked with the board of the newly established Elkhorn Slough Foundation to engage the community in bringing to life the idea of a place where understanding the functioning of the slough environment could enrich education and engagement and lead to meaningful conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the Elkhorn Slough Foundation is a strong partner of the Reserve, owning four organic farms, a cattle ranch, and over 4,000 acres of vital habitat in the Elkhorn watershed, and under **Mark Silberstein's** leadership, partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife has led to the restoration of thousands of acres of formerly damaged land, measurably improving water quality flowing into the Slough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elkhorn Slough Foundation is an Accredited Land Trust under the National Land Trust Commission and a founding member of the California Council of Land Trusts; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mark Silberstein's** leadership has extended beyond the Slough to leading natural history trips to Baja California, Central and South America, the Galápagos Islands, and the Caribbean, while also chairing a federal Blue Ribbon Panel to review and expand the work of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and serving on the board of the California Council of Land Trusts; and

**WHEREAS**, **Mark Silberstein** has been honored for his work over the years by The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Law Institute, as well as by having received the Panetta Sea Star Award, the Ed Ricketts Memorial Award, and being honored as an "Environmental Hero" by NOAA.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, hereby celebrates and recognizes **Mark Silberstein** for his 43-year career with the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and unabashed enthusiasm for the people and place that have inspired a lifetime of dedication to studying and protecting the Elkhorn Slough, or, as Mark calls it, "The Cosmic Center of the Universe."

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this **2<sup>nd</sup>** day of **June** 2026, 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 order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

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

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy