

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING COUNTY VOLUNTEERS AND
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 21-27, 2013 AS
“NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK” IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, volunteers contribute an invaluable service to the County of San Luis Obispo and local residents, complementing the efforts of County employees and County funding limitations; and

WHEREAS, For twenty-two years the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has provided hands-on support to air travelers in San Luis Obispo County. Their commitment is evidenced by an average length of service of over 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Animal Services volunteers numbering 75-100 persons at any given time have directly affected the care, adoption, rehoming, and quality of life of more than 4,000 dogs, cats, rabbits, and other homeless pets sheltered by Animal Services, helping San Luis Obispo County achieve one of the lowest euthanasia rates of any public shelter in California; and

WHEREAS, San Luis Obispo County Fire has over 200 Volunteer Firefighters who respond to 10,000 calls yearly including wildland and structure fires, medical emergencies, traffic accidents and technical rescues. Further, the Volunteer Firefighters help raise awareness of safety by participating in educational programs, fundraisers and fire prevention activities at public venues. These well trained volunteers are dedicated servants of San Luis Obispo County protecting life, property and resources; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney's Office student volunteers from Cal Poly State University and Cuesta College perform a wide variety of duties on behalf of the Victim/Witness Assistance and Criminal Divisions. As a result of this collaborative effort, student interns have collectively contributed approximately 4,500 hours to the District Attorney's Office for which they have received school credit toward their degree; and

WHEREAS, General Services volunteers provide much needed services to the public at the Information Desk in the New Government Center Lobby. This tireless group of five individuals has provided approximately 546 hours of service throughout the year. Our volunteers are occasionally appointed as Deputy Commissioners of Marriage and have performed numerous marriage ceremonies over the years; and

WHEREAS, Library volunteers numbering 791 persons contribute over 45,200 hours of service per year, shelving/mending books, emptying book drops, providing public programs, and Internet guidance, on an independent basis and in affiliation with fifteen Friends of the Library groups and the Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Golf have numerous volunteer groups and individuals that have donated some 52,301 hours of service this year which equates to an added value of \$1,098,321 providing essential maintenance and repairs of trails, structures and natural areas for both park and golf course facilities as well as helping with special events, fundraising and recreational programming; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Building Department volunteers and student interns contributed up to 3,200 hours per year in assisting our Building, Planning and Operations Divisions. These volunteer services contributed time to updating public forms and documents, creating graphics for staff reports, helping to create/maintain several GIS layers, assisting with the preparation of initial studies consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act, preparing public hearing notices and staff reports, researching and data gathering to be used in the preparation of community plans and special projects, and assisting with the implementation of outreach and education programs for the County's Energy Program. The knowledge gained through working with the Planning and Building Department provided our volunteers and student interns with the experience necessary to be able to compete for good jobs in the planning or building field; and

WHEREAS, The Probation and Sheriff's Departments work with Restorative Partners, a not-for-profit organization responsible for recruiting, screening, training, supervising and organizing programs in the Juvenile Hall and County Jail. Sr. Theresa Harpin, C.S.J., the Executive Director along with Erin McNulty, AmeriCorps Member and their 150 community and student volunteers have served in the past one and half years 6,869 hours providing: tutoring, book studies, library resources, girls health, hygiene and self awareness classes, yoga and meditation, job readiness and life skills, music and art classes, creative writing and drama classes, sports programming, speakers forum, Sunday services, pastoral counseling, Alternative to Violence training, and community education programs in restorative justice practices; and

WHEREAS, Public Works benefits from a wide range of volunteer contributions, including a successful Adopt-a-Road program, a Creek Cleanup Day, community groups that help keep road medians landscaped, irrigated and clean. Additionally, over 180 well owners and 40 precipitation observers provide our utilities division with hydrologic data to help the County and residents understand water resources of the region; and

WHEREAS, San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Aero Squadron, a volunteer unit that provides the Sheriff's Office with cost saving transportation, support for the Sheriff's Narcotic unit with aerial surveillance, assists Search and Rescue during missions and trainings with aerial communications support, participate in public events and trains regularly to maintain proficiency in order to provide professional service to our county; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol was established to assist the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office in meeting its law enforcement mission and provide supplemental patrol in our neighborhoods and business districts. These volunteers act as additional "eyes and ears" in an effort to identify crime problems and increase public safety. Aside from patrolling the streets, auxiliary patrol members attend neighborhood watch meetings, perform vacation house checks and assist in educating the public in crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Search and Rescue are available and ready to respond, 24 hours a day seven days a week, anywhere within the county, to search for missing persons, provide aide in natural disasters, assist investigations in evidentiary searches, provide support for and participate in public events, provide mutual aid to neighboring counties and train regularly to maintain proficiency in required skills: and

WHEREAS, through the programs of the University of California Cooperative Extension/Farm Advisors, more than 400 adults in San Luis Obispo County volunteer their time and talents to support one of the largest 4-H Youth Development Club Programs in the state. In the UCCE Master Gardener Program, more than 120 county residents trained as Certified Master Gardeners volunteer more than 5,000 hours a year in outreach and education programs for sustainable landscape practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, County of San Luis Obispo, does hereby honor and recognize all County volunteers for their ongoing contributions, and recognize April 21-27, 2013 as "National Volunteer Week" in San Luis Obispo County.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by

Supervisor _____, and on the following roll call vote to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution is hereby adopted.

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy Clerk