

RESOLUTION
of
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARIN COUNTY

PROCLAIMING
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2020
AND RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

WHEREAS, 50 years ago, on April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans joined together in demonstration calling for action to address the environmental crisis they were witnessing around them, including oil spills, choking smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire; and

WHEREAS, this collective call for action set the stage for the passage of sweeping laws to protect the planet and public health including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, under the Trump Administration, these laws and all the progress made towards protecting the environment and planet earth are being rolled back, or under direct attack at a time when the earth is more vulnerable, not less; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is recognized every year as a reminder of our responsibility as individuals, businesses, community and society, to protect our planet, steward the natural environment, reverse the harm that modern society has wreaked on the grand ecosystem that is Earth, the ecosystem that supports all life; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action, the ultimate call to action as Climate Change is recognized around the globe as the ultimate challenge to the future of humanity, to the life support systems that make our world habitable; and

WHEREAS, in Marin County has been a leader in the environmental movement, advancing natural resource protection, open space conservation, environmental stewardship and climate action, most recently launching Marin County Drawdown, a countywide, climate action initiative with the bold vision of making Marin a carbon free community by 2045, working from the grass roots level to inspire all cities and towns, organizations, and individuals to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions released locally; and

WHEREAS, on this 50th Anniversary of Earth Day we face two global crisis – the climate crisis which has been building for decades and the COVID-19 virus which has ripped through the world in a matter of months; and

WHEREAS, the current response to COVID-19 has been to put communities, cities large and small, whole states, and nations under shelter in place/stay at home orders effectively putting whole economies largely on pause in hopes of containing this threat; and

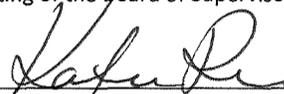
WHEREAS, this sudden and dramatic reduction in human activity, on economies predominantly powered by fossil fuels, has created an unintended benefit -- cleaner air, cleaner water, less noise. Global containment measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus have made the world much quieter, even the earth's crust is vibrating less; and

WHEREAS, during this COVID crisis, on Earth Day 2020, while we cannot physically gather to celebrate, to demonstrate, or physically congregate, we can take a break from our shelter in place, go outside, breathe in the clean, clear air; look up at the blue, blue sky; hear spring, nature's clarion call of renewal, erupt around us with more power and purity than we have witnessed before; and

WHEREAS, upon the 50th anniversary of Earth Day let us recommit as individuals, environmental organizations, businesses, educators, community and governmental to environmental protection, to end the age of fossil fuels, to implement environmentally sound practices across private and public sectors, to steward our natural resources, and collaborate across states and nations for the protection of planet health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin hereby proclaims April 22, 2020 to be "Earth Day" Marin County, and joins individuals and organizations throughout our community, nation, and world, in celebrating all that has been accomplished, and recommit to protect the environment, planet health, and a sustainable future for all living creatures not just on Earth Day, but every day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 28th day of April 2020.


KATIE RICE – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2 – PRESIDENT

