



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

Sempervirens Fund

WHEREAS, Sempervirens Fund, a conservation organization dedicated to preserving Coast Redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains and California’s first land trust, is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2025; and,

WHEREAS, in 1899, Mr. Andrew Hill, a photojournalist from San Jose on assignment in the Santa Cruz Mountains covering the aftermath of a fire, was shocked and saddened to see so many old-growth redwoods cut down, and he returned to his community and started a campaign to save the remaining coast redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1900 on the banks of Sempervirens Creek, Mr. Hill along with several other influential friends, founded the Sempervirens Club and committed to contact elected officials to demand protection for the remaining redwoods and for the creation of a public park at Big Basin. They passed a hat, collected \$32 to finance their efforts, and launched a fundraising and lobbying campaign to protect the redwood forest from further destruction, and

WHEREAS, within two years, the Sempervirens Club convinced the California Legislature to pass a bill to create the park and acquire 3,800 acres of ancient redwood forests in Big Basin for the people of California—protecting Coast Redwoods for the first time, anywhere; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent 124 years, Sempervirens Fund has protected tens of thousands of acres of forest including the establishment of Henry Cowell Redwoods, Big Basin Redwoods, and Castle Rock State Parks, and the Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument, as well as advancing conservation science and policy, sustainable forest management and public access; and

WHEREAS, in the next 125 years and beyond, Sempervirens Fund will continue its core mission to protect and connect the forest while addressing head on the challenge of this century, climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby honors and commends Sempervirens Fund for its 125 years of service to the residents of California through its vigorous dedication to preserving the magnificence of the redwood forest for generations to come.

DATED: MAY 18, 2025

SUPERVISORS:

DAVID J. CANEPA, PRESIDENT

JACKIE SPEIER

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

LISA GAUTHIER

ATTEST: _____
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS