



**Resolution
of
The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County
Steve Bennett
County of Ventura, First District Supervisor**

Whereas, Steve Bennett was first elected as First District County Supervisor in November 2000 and served the residents of Ventura County in this role from January 2001 through November 2020 and is widely acknowledged for his wisdom, vision, commitment to equity and fairness, the long-term fiscal stability of the County, and betterment of communities and organizations while being a staunch advocate of vulnerable populations, environmental protection, reducing income inequality, and addressing climate change; and

Whereas, Supervisor Bennett has been a champion of the environment by protecting groundwater resources, working diligently in the effort to remove Matilija Dam, fighting for the clean-up of the Petro Chem refinery, taking a leadership role in support of reducing the County government's carbon footprint, supporting the Clean Power Alliance, registering the County as a signatory to the "We Are Still In" Paris Climate Agreement, promoting conversion of street lamps to LED lights, advocating for the Dark Skies policy, adoption of a hybrid car policy and converting the County vehicle fleet to electric vehicles, banning the use of Styrofoam-type containers in County facilities, initiating development of a County Climate Action Plan, introducing a measure to require large homes to be highly energy efficient, and encouraging that new County buildings be built to LEED standards; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure, Steve Bennett has been a staunch advocate for policies and funding programs that support vulnerable populations and reduce the impacts of income inequality, including the Ventura County Living Wage Ordinance, the Boys and Girls Club at the Oak View Park and Resource Center, HELP of Ojai at the old Honor Farm, Long Term Care Ombudsman, provision and expansion of Medical and Social Detox programs, annual funding for all Boys and Girls Clubs serving the unincorporated areas, and funding the expansion of the Westminster Free Clinic; and

Whereas, Steve Bennett has long been committed to ending homelessness in Ventura County, co-chairing the committee to update the 10-Year Strategy to End Homelessness, recommending funding to divert families from homeless shelters to motels while County social workers assist the family to find permanent housing solutions, initiating the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund, and developing a framework for partnerships with cities to develop year-round permanent shelters; and

Whereas, during his tenure, Supervisor Bennett has brought forward some of the strongest campaign finance reform legislation in the state, updating and expanding the protections regularly; and

Whereas, Supervisor Bennett has long been a leader in supporting foster families and improving the lives of foster children, enhancing the Foster Family Respite program, reaching out to the community to recruit foster families, holding a Foster Youth Career Exploration Day, the Connecting with Compassion joint adult and youth conference, and participating on the TEACH Scholarship committee; and

Whereas, with Steve Bennett's leadership and assistance the citizens of the unincorporated communities of Oak View, Casitas Springs and Mira Monte worked together to pass a benefit assessment tax enabling them to save a surplus school site from becoming a housing development and instead created a community park and resource center; and Steve worked with several hundred residents of Ojai Valley community in a series of Ojai Valley Wide Discussions to identify positive priority projects the community could work on together, and as a result of that effort more than 1,000 residents have completed Community Emergency Response Training and most recently Supervisor Bennett worked with the unincorporated communities in the Ojai Valley on a Caltrans grant-funded community-based planning process to enhance safety and on the Hwy 33 corridor; and

Whereas, as County Supervisor, Steve continued his support for open space and agriculture that he started as a co-author of SOAR by supporting initiatives to build farmworker housing, development of the Farmworker Resource Program, and

Whereas, Steve Bennett has been a tireless advocate for multimodal transportation, especially bicycles. He was a co-founder of the Cycle California Coast organization working to improve bicycle infrastructure and amenities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to benefit residents and tourists alike and increasing sustainable tourism; he was a leader in the County policies to add bike lanes to County roads whenever they are repaved, and designating \$6 million for bike lanes on County roads; and

Whereas, Supervisor Steve Bennett's leadership and work to improve the lives of Ventura County residents has been recognized by many organizations including the Sierra Club for Outstanding Environmental Leadership, the Boys and Girls Club Outstanding Community Leader, the Kennedy-Grace Lifetime Achievement Award, the California Family Resource Association Champion Award, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Conservation Award.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, hereby honor the distinguished career and legacy of Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett, and express our sincere gratitude for his almost 20 years of public service and leadership in Ventura County and wish him well as he continues to serve the public in his new role as a member of the State Assembly.

Presented This 10th Day of November 2020

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District

Linda Parks, Supervisor 2nd District

Robert O. Huber, Supervisor 4th District

John C. Zaragoza, Supervisor 5th District