

City of Petaluma

Proclamation

PETALUMA WETLANDS DAY – MARCH 2, 2020

WHEREAS, during the past 50 years a dedicated effort of public and private investment reversed the long trend of filling and draining the San Francisco Bay Area's wetlands and led to the restoration and renewed productivity of thousands of acres of previously damaged or destroyed wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petaluma, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the California Coastal Conservancy and others have assisted in this process by investing millions of public dollars to help restore 500 acres at the upper end of the Petaluma Marsh at Alman Marsh, Shollenberger Park and Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility; and

WHEREAS, this effort has led to the success of having over 200 species of native and migratory birds and waterfowl, including rare and endangered species, visit and inhabit the Petaluma Wetlands as well as 25 species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and

WHEREAS, the trails, vistas and restored wetlands of Shollenberger Park, Alman Marsh and the Ellis Creek Water Treatment Facility have attracted over 150,000 visitors per year, with people of all ages visiting from our own community as well as other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service approved the addition of the Petaluma Wetlands to the San Francisco Bay Ramsar Designation for wetlands of international significance.

WHEREAS, the National Geographic Society, whose mission is "Working to Protect the World's Distinctive Places Through Wisely Managed Tourism and Enlightened Destination Stewardship," has just recognized the Petaluma Wetlands as a key destination for geo-tourism on its new website, www.visitredwoodcoast.com.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Teresa Barrett, Mayor of Petaluma, along with the members of the Petaluma City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2, 2020 as **PETALUMA WETLANDS DAY** in recognition of the residents and businesses of Petaluma and their governmental and non-profit partners for having helped to restore the Petaluma Wetlands to a flourishing and attractive destination not only for today residents but for future generations to come.

Teresa Barrett, Mayor

Samantha Pascoe, Deputy City Clerk