



### CELEBRATING RALPH BENSON'S CAREER IN LAND CONSERVATION

**WHEREAS,** Ralph Benson is retiring from his position as the Executive Director of the Sonoma Land Trust where he has worked since 2003; and

**WHEREAS,** Prior to 2003, Ralph worked for 24 years as the General Counsel, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Trust for Public Land with more than a million acres of land protected during his tenure; and

**WHEREAS,** As Executive Director, Ralph lead the Sonoma Land Trust in: developing long term land protection strategies; promoting private and public funding for land conservation; acquiring land and conservation easements; practicing stewardship and promoting a sense of place and land ethic through education and outreach; and

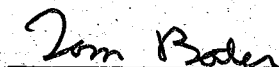
**WHEREAS,** Under Ralph Benson's leadership, the Sonoma Land Trust has grown into a well respected conservation agency overseeing the protection and restoration of more than 36,000 acres, including more than 4,000 acres around San Pablo Bay, nearly 1,000 acres of tidal marshes at Sears Point; more than 6,300 acres running from the coast near Jenner to the mountains outside of Cazadero, Pole Mountain (the highest point on the Sonoma Coast), and assisting in the protection of thousands of acres of working forest land, and

**WHEREAS,** Ralph's life work has been dedicated to protecting land in order to maintain a resilient hedge against the effects of climate change and to preserving for generations to come, the natural landscape, motivated by the belief that land is the foundation of our economy and of our community's health and well-being.

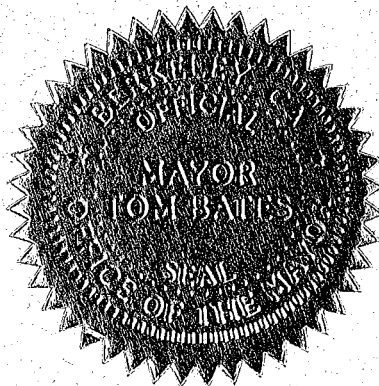
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Tom Bates,** on behalf of the City of Berkeley congratulate

**Ralph Benson**

for his pioneering vision and extraordinary accomplishments in land conservation and thank him for his service to the greater Bay Area community and region.



Tom Bates  
Mayor



February 24, 2015