

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, on February 4, 1991, Steve Werner began his career as a Supervising Planner for the County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department; and

WHEREAS, Steve was integral to developing many of the department processes including:

- 1) Consolidation of Building and Planning Divisions into a single counter (1998)
- 2) Full Cost Recovery Program to recover the actual cost (1998)
- 3) Consolidated the County's disjointed collection of historical land use (2000)
- 4) Initiated Planner's Training Series (2003)
- 5) Expanded Public Notice and On-site Development Notification (2004)
- 6) Instituted Application Assistance Program for Self-Help Applicants (2005)
- 7) Formed the Development Assistance Division (2006); and

WHEREAS, Steve has left an indelible imprint on Humboldt County with significant contributions to the County's most advanced policy documents including:

- 1) Fire Safe Regulations (1991 and 2015)
- 2) Updated Williamson Act Guidelines (2002)
- 3) Adopted Grading and Streamside Management Ordinance (2002)
- 4) HCD Certification of the Housing Element (1998, 2004, 2009)
- 5) Commercial Medical Marijuana Land Use Ordinance (2016); and

WHEREAS, Steve is familiar with taking tough assignments which ultimately get resolved in court:

- 1) Initiated enforcement of the Williamson Act on the Tooby Ranch (2002) which led to State Appeals Court affirmation of Williamson Act contract requirements
- 2) Map Act Compliance Program (2005); and

WHEREAS, with 30 years of experience, Steve has earned the nickname “Planning Google” and is an institution for the County which will miss his ability to cite CEQA sections, the Subdivision Map Act, Planning and Zoning Law, County Code sections, precedent actions on other projects and court cases; and

WHEREAS, Steve’s no-nonsense, level-headed approach to problem-solving in carrying out his assigned responsibilities, has been evident in his interactions with permit applicants, local and state agencies, and other county department personnel; and

WHEREAS, Steve has trained several generations of planners and newly appointed planning commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Steve’s loyalty went beyond Planning & Building as he would often notice when another department had not responded to a referral and would personally reach out to ensure that comments were not overlooked; and

WHEREAS, Steve has been an outstanding example of leadership, integrity, and grace with an excellent work ethic and a positive attitude in the performance of his job duties that earned him the loyalty and trust of his staff; and

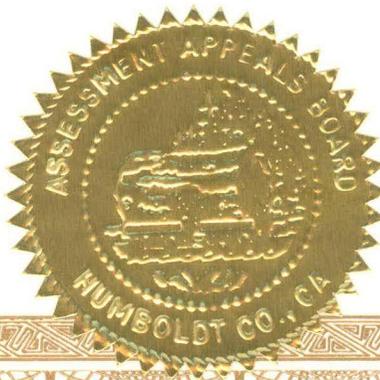
WHEREAS, Steve’s ability to remain calm during public meetings combined with his Sargent Friday demeanor of “just the facts” has helped the Planning Commission make many difficult decisions; and

WHEREAS, Steve has a generous spirit, most notable during the holidays when he hosted a staff white elephant luncheon where good food, great company, a few gag gifts and lots of laughs were shared by all; and

WHEREAS, Steve took on every challenge presented to him with a smile and without reservation, and it has been a pleasure to work with such a capable and committed professional.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and citizens of Humboldt County hereby commend and thank Steven Werner for his dedication and service to the citizens of Humboldt County and wish him a long and prosperous retirement.

December 15, 2020



Estelle Fennell, Chair