



Resolution in Honor of Mary Small

California State Coastal Conservancy

September 5, 2024

Whereas, Mary Small has been with the Coastal Conservancy for 24 years, working as a project manager in the San Francisco Bay Area Program, as South Coast Regional Manager, and as Deputy Executive Officer.

Whereas, Mary served as Acting Executive Officer for six months after Sam Schuchat retired in 2021, making her the agency's first female Executive Officer and demonstrating her ability and willingness to take on any challenge effectively.

Whereas, Mary has mentored innumerable Conservancy staff and fellows with patience, humor, and insight, setting them up for long and successful careers in conservation.

Whereas, Mary supports and believes in her co-workers and colleagues and is everyone's go to person for solving project challenges and budget issues.

Whereas, Mary gained unique insight into the Santa Ana River corridor by cycling it end-to-end.

Whereas, Mary Small worked tirelessly to plan and facilitate wetlands restoration in Southern California, including creating the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority and managing subsequent acquisition of the lands that are now being restored.

Whereas, Mary worked to expand the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the California Coastal Trail, and helped launch the Great Redwood Trail.

Whereas, Mary managed two critical land acquisitions in eastern Contra Coast County: Cowell Ranch, creating Marsh Creek State Park, and Dutch Slough, providing for large scale wetland restoration in the Delta.

Whereas, Mary has worked closely with the Administration and the State Legislature over many years, explaining the importance of and strategies for coastal conservation and restoration, public access to the coast, and climate adaptation.

Whereas, Mary has tackled FI\$CAL, Air Tables, ABCRS, Hyperion, Tab Runs, BCPs, and other complicated budget "stuff" with humor, grace, and intelligence.

Whereas, Mary is an expert user of Microsoft Excel, despite her choice of a career in coastal conservation.

Whereas, Mary has been a constant source of calm and positivity on the roller coaster ride of Conservancy funding.

Whereas, Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council and Bryan Cash, Assistant Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency said, “thanks to all that Mary Small has done, the California Coast will be protected for generations to come.”

Whereas, David McNeill, Director of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, promulgates “Mary not only served the public, wildlife, and environment, to the highest degree possible, she also nurtured her friends and colleagues with profound kindness and knowledge.”

Whereas, Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, stated “Mary is one of those people who simultaneously brought trust, reason, and humor to any complex situation. Further, she worked to protect California’s iconic coast, ensuring the State’s unique biodiversity thrives for future generations.”

Whereas, Joe Edmiston, Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, said “Mary brought a high level of rationality to coastal access meetings in Southern California.”

Whereas, Rebecca Fris, Deputy Director of the Wildlife Conservation Board said, “Mary was such a friendly, knowledgeable, experienced colleague and much appreciated confidant that will be desperately missed and forever fondly remembered for her decades of successful collaborative work, problem solving abilities with a smile, and amazing contributions to conservation in California.”

Whereas, Annie Burke, Executive Director of Together Bay Area said, “Mary embodies the best of the State Coastal Conservancy. She has been a true partner, a positive force for good, a problem solver, an implementer, and a source of hope and inspiration. And she will be missed.”

Whereas, Kate Hucklebridge, Executive Director of the Coastal Commission stated, “Mary successfully built partnerships among the coastal agencies to strengthen California's coastal management program, ushering in countless habitat restoration and public access projects across the state, be it resolved that the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission and the Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy officially bestow on Mary the title of 'Coastal Warrior'.”

Now, therefore, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby recognizes and thanks Mary Small for her years of service to the people and environment of California and wishes her all the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life story.

Witness:

Douglas Bosco, Chair