Resolution in Honor of Sam Schuchat

State Coastal Conservancy

June 7, 2021

Whereas, Sam Schuchat has served as the Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy since July 2, 2001;

Whereas, Sam has witnessed the passage of Propositions 12, 40, 50, 84, 1, and 68, totaling approximately $1.3 billion dollars distributed by the Conservancy for coastal protection, restoration, and public access projects;

Whereas, Sam has reviewed 1,681 staff recommendations, participated in 124 Conservancy Board meetings (including this one), and signed an uncountable number of grant agreements, contracts, and invoices;

Whereas, Sam has served four California Governors and five Natural Resources Secretaries;

Whereas, Sam has expanded the Conservancy’s jurisdiction up the Santa Ana River and avoided the Conservancy’s expansion into the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta;

Whereas, Sam led the establishment of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and the placement of Measure AA on the ballot in the Bay Area;

Whereas, under Sam, the Conservancy established Explore the Coast and has provided 220 grants to date, enabling thousands and thousands of people to visit the coast, many for the first time;

Whereas, under Sam, the Conservancy established Climate Ready, supporting public agencies and nonprofits in addressing climate change through nature-based adaptation;

Whereas, Sam led the development of the Conservancy’s first Strategic Plan in 2003, which has been updated every five years since then, always with quantitative objectives;

Whereas, Sam dragged the Conservancy into the twenty-first century, setting up a project database and online project map, shifting from a paper board book to a digital board book, and finally switching the agency from paper to digital forms and signatures in 2020;

Whereas, Sam is a founding member of the Conservancy band, playing saxophone and harmonica in songs from multiple genres, including All About the Bass, Proud Mary, Ring of Fire, and I Wanna Be Sedated;

Whereas, Sam (and Ilana) have generously hosted multiple Conservancy retirements and gatherings in their backyard;
Whereas, Sam has been a mentor to, champion for, and friend of many staff at the Conservancy;

Now, therefore, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby recognizes and thanks Sam Schuchat for his 20 years of service to the coast of California and wishes him all the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life story.

Witness:

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Doug Bosco, Chair

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Ann Notthoff, Vice Chair

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Marce Gutiérrez-Graudinš, Public Member

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Joseph M. Alioto, Public Member

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Steve Padilla, Chair, Coastal Commission

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Bryan Cash, Natural Resources Agency

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Gayle Miller, Department of Finance