

City of Eureka

Proclamation

In recognition of

**Native Plant Week
Week of April 12, 2015**

Whereas, California's native plants provide unique iconic, economic, artistic, historical, and environmental value to Eureka and the greater Eureka area; and

Whereas, California's urban landscapes benefit the local community and state by improving air quality, filtering storm water run-off, calming traffic, increasing community pride, providing jobs, and helping create more enjoyable, beautiful and sustainable urban areas; and

Whereas, California is a hotspot for natural biodiversity, containing over 8,000 native plant species, more than all other states combined; and

Whereas, California is also known to have the greatest number of endangered species of any U.S. state, with the Department of Fish and Wildlife recognizing nearly one quarter of California native plants as "special status plants" warranting additional protection; and

Whereas, urban plantings with native plants can reduce loss of habitat, increase local diversity, and offset a net loss of species to the impacts of urban development; and

Whereas, California's native plants contend with over 1,000 non-native species, many of which compete with native plants and wildlife, alter the state's natural landscapes and invade urban, agricultural and woodland areas, costing the state more than 82 million dollars per year; and

Whereas, utilizing native plants can discourage the spread of invasive species and help to restore damaged ecosystems, and provide for many of the essential needs of local wildlife, including native birds, bees and butterflies; and

Whereas, many native plants are edible and nutritious and have been used for subsistence and cultural practices by the First Nations peoples of California, who live and thrive by their knowledge of plants and their management of these resources; and

Whereas, gardens and landscapes comprised of native plants, which are perfectly suited to California's climate and soils, require no added fertilizers or pesticides, and use 60 to 90 percent less water than conventional landscapes; and

Whereas, restoring California's native plants can provide natural links to wildland areas, introduce people to the unique natural beauty of the greater Eureka area, instill a greater understanding and appreciation for California's natural heritage, and provide increased possibilities for recreation; and

Whereas, there are many local resources, individuals, business, and non-profits ready and willing to work toward these ends, and provide quality local opportunities for increased economic stability and job diversity in Eureka; now, therefore,

I, Natalie Arroyo, Eureka City Council Member, do proclaim the third week of April as Native Plant Week in the City of Eureka, and encourage city departments, businesses, community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote native plant conservation, restoration, education and to inform their neighbors and communities of the many benefits of native plants in nature and in urban landscapes.

**Natalie Arroyo
Councilmember
April 7, 2015**