

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF THE 2014-15 FOURTH GRADE CLASS
OF MANOR SCHOOL AND THEIR TEACHER LAURA HONDA**

Whereas, in the Fall of 2014, in the midst of an historic drought, Laura Honda and her Fourth-Grade Class began discussing ways of saving water at Manor School including conducting a water use audit of Manor school; and

Whereas, this discussion led to a larger discussion of water conservation for the State of California, including the idea of requiring the State of California to require drought-resistant, native species for the State's Landscaping; and

Whereas, Ms. Honda and her class then worked closely with our Assemblyman Marc Levine to draft legislation to implement these ideas, presenting this idea as legislation; and

Whereas, the class then traveled to Sacramento in April of 2015 and presented testimony before the California State Assembly in support of the legislation, Assembly Bill 606, and returned to Sacramento in the Summer of 2015 and presented further testimony before the California State Senate in support of the bill; and

Whereas, the members of the Class wrote numerous letters to elected officials to urge passage of AB 606; and

Whereas, AB 606 passed unanimously in the California Assembly and California Senate, and was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on October 9, 2015, and became officially codified as California Government Code § 11011.29; and

Whereas, the California Senate Rules Committee officially recognized Ms. Honda and Manor School as the inspiration and original source for the bill and acknowledged that the use of native plants would also "help our birds and bees and other wildlife by creating pockets of habitat for them;" and

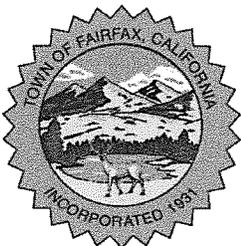
Whereas, AB 606 was enthusiastically endorsed by the Association of California Water Agencies, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Municipal Utilities Association, the California Native Plant Society, the Sierra Club and nearly a dozen municipal water agencies; and

Whereas, AB 606 requires every California state agency, where feasible, to now reduce water consumption and increase water efficiencies for every property it builds upon or purchases, or replaces landscaping or irrigation; and

Whereas, AB 606 requires all California agencies, where feasible, to replace landscaping with drought-tolerant plants and especially native plant species, and use recycled water and/or capture rainwater for irrigation; and

Whereas, the lasting impact of AB 606 will be to save countless gallons of water each year and associated energy costs, while promoting the cultivation of California Native Species on thousands of acres of state-owned land, promoting water conservation as well as the proliferation of native pollinator species who symbiotically coexist and support Native Species, and setting a shining example for other landscapers to follow;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, on the third day of February 2016,
that the Town of Fairfax expresses its gratitude to **Ms. Honda and her students**
for their inspiring environmental stewardship, and for demonstrating the power of
participatory democracy.



Renée Goddard
Mayor of Fairfax

AGENDA ITEM # 1