

September 6, 2017

RN 17 53280

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Ben Hueso, 40th Senatorial District;
Relative to commending the

4-H CLUB MEXICALI

WHEREAS, As an inspiring reminder that the need for education does not stop at the California-Mexico border, the launch in January 2017 of 4-H Club Mexicali, the first 4-H club in Baja California, Mexico, attests to the value of building relationships as a means of cooperative engagement in response to shared concerns--such as drought and global climate change--that know no borders, and for their participation in the historic agreement that led to the creation of 4-H Club Mexicali, Baja California Secretary of Agriculture, Manuel Vallodolid Seamanduras, the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), and UC ANR's California 4-H

program are deserving of special honors and commendations; and

WHEREAS, California and Mexico share a 156-mile-long border and an agricultural legacy that has faced growing challenges in recent years posed by issues such as drought and climate change, for which mounting an effective, long-term response requires Mexico and California to share resources by providing access to outstanding educational opportunities that will prepare leaders, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, and professionals with the knowledge and commitment to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, Problem-solvers, catalysts, collaborators, educators, and stewards of the land since 1913, UC Cooperative Extension scientists, along with campus partners, have helped make California the nation's leading agricultural state, in tandem with UC ANR's efforts to link Californians to their university system through local expertise, nine Research and Extension Centers, and notable statewide programs, including the UC ANR California 4-H program that has taught legions of California children for over a century about food, agriculture, leadership, and community service using learn-by-doing practices; and

WHEREAS, Convinced of both the benefits and the viability of 4-H programs that UC ANR California 4-H could bring

to Mexico, Dr. Lupita Fábregas and Claudia P. Diaz Carrasco approached Baja California's Secretario de Fomento Agropecuario (SEFOA) with the goal of establishing the first 4-H Club in Mexicali, and after a joint UC ANR and SEFOA six-month community assessment to determine local needs and set goals, UC ANR staff provided youth development with expertise, training, and resources, as well as technical assistance and support that allowed SEFOA's staff to work independently to recruit youth and adults for the 4-H program in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, On January 20, 2017, UC ANR Vice President Glenda Humiston and Baja California SEFOA's leader, Manuel Vallodolid Seamanduras, signed an agreement of cooperation to increase the academic, scientific, technological, and cultural relations between SEFOA in Baja California and UC ANR in California as a part of UC President Janet Napolitano's Mexico Initiative that seeks to create partnerships between the University of California and institutions in Mexico, and during her visit to Mexico, Glenda Humiston witnessed the opening of 4-H Club Mexicali, the first 4-H club in Baja California; and

WHEREAS, Representing a project that exemplifies the laudable collaboration between SEFOA and UC ANR, the nascent 4-H Club Mexicali holds the promise of serving as a transformative 4-H

program in Mexico that will engage youth in educational and leadership activities as a means of nurturing Baja California's next generation of leaders and serve as a model for the establishment of similar 4-H experiences for youth in the rest of Baja California and Mexico; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY SENATOR BEN HUESO, That he heartily congratulates 4-H Club Mexicali in its inaugural year, commends and thanks Baja California Secretary of Agriculture, Manuel Vallodolid Seamanduras, and all the staff of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Baja California's Secretario de Fomento Agropecuario for their steadfast commitment to fostering cooperation between California and Mexico and the training of future leaders through the launch of 4-H Club Mexicali, and extends his sincere best wishes for the success of this vital cross-border 4-H endeavor in the years to come.

Dated this ____ day of ____, ____.

Honorable Ben Hueso
40th Senatorial District