



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
CALIFORNIA

Mayor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS AMPHIBIANS IN SANTA CRUZ ARE IN CONSIDERABLE PERIL, NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S AMPHIBIAN SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION, AND UP TO TWO HUNDRED SPECIES HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED SINCE 1979, THUS, AMPHIBIANS ARE AMONG THE MOST THREATENED ANIMALS ON EARTH; and
- WHEREAS AMPHIBIANS ARE CRITICAL COMPONENTS TO OUR ECOSYSTEM, ESPECIALLY THE CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG (*RANA DRAYTONII*) AND THE SANTA CRUZ LONG-TOED SALAMANDER (*AMBYSTOMA MACRODACTYLUM CROCEUM*), AND PROVIDE SERVICES TO NATURE AND TO HUMANS, INCLUDING CLEANING WATERWAYS BY EATING ALGAE DURING THEIR TADPOLE STAGE; SERVING AS A VITAL SOURCE OF FOOD TO DRAGONFLIES, BIRDS, FISH, AND REPTILES; AND CONSUMING LARGE QUANTITIES OF TICKS, MOSQUITOES, AND OTHER PESTS THAT SERVE AS DISEASE VECTORS THAT CAN TRANSMIT FATAL ILLNESSES TO HUMANS; and
- WHEREAS APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT OF THE NOBEL PRIZES IN PHYSIOLOGY AND MEDICINE HAVE RESULTED FROM RESEARCH THAT DEPENDED ON AMPHIBIANS, AND WHEN AN AMPHIBIAN SPECIES DISAPPEARS, SO DOES ANY PROMISE IT HOLDS FOR IMPROVING HUMAN MEDICINE; and
- WHEREAS AMPHIBIANS FACE A MULTITUDE OF THREATS, INCLUDING POLLUTION, PESTICIDES, HABITAT DESTRUCTION, CLIMATE CHANGE, INVASIVE SPECIES, INFECTIOUS DISEASES, AND OVER-HARVESTING FOR THE PET AND FOOD TRADES; and
- WHEREAS FROGS COMPRISE THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMPHIBIAN SPECIES AND ARE THE GROUP MOST RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC; and
- WHEREAS SAVE THE FROGS!, AMERICA'S FIRST AND ONLY PUBLIC CHARITY DEDICATED TO AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION, IS PROUDLY HEADQUARTERED IN THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AND CONCEIVES AND COORDINATES THE INTERNATIONAL SAVE THE FROGS! DAY EVENTS; and
- WHEREAS SAVE THE FROGS! BELIEVES IN THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO SEE, HEAR, AND CATCH AMPHIBIANS IN THEIR NATIVE HABITAT, AND WITHOUT AN EDUCATED AND INFORMED PUBLIC, AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE ROTKIN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 30, 2010 AS "SAVE THE FROGS! DAY" IN THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO APPRECIATE AND CELEBRATE AMPHIBIANS ON THIS DAY.



MIKE ROTKIN, MAYOR