

**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert M Weygandt, Supervisor District 2

DATE: May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: Approve a Commendation congratulating Fowler Nursery on their 100 year anniversary and for being the recipient of the 2012 Placer Grown Farmer of the Year Award.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Commendation congratulating Fowler Nursery on their 100 year anniversary and for being the recipient of the 2012 Placer Grown Farmer of the Year Award.

BACKGROUND

In 1912, Eugene "Gene" Fowler, worked at The Silva Bergtholdt Company in Newcastle, CA and was asked by Judge Silva to produce 20,000 pear trees in the highly fertile soils of Newcastle, hence Fowler Nurseries was founded.

During World War II, many local Japanese growers and Japanese employees working for Fowler Nurseries were sent to relocation camps. Gene Fowler's determination, along with the help of the local community, assisted in getting crops harvested and delivered for the Japanese growers until they returned.

In the 1940's, Robert "Bob" Fowler joined his father, Gene, in nursery operations. During this time, Fowler Nurseries, in cooperation with UC Davis, began research on virus diseases of fruit and almond trees. Gene and Bob also designed a unique tree digger mounted on a crawler for harvesting crops which became the second high-clearance tree digger in California.

Fowler Nurseries embarked on a program to discover new rootstocks and varieties that would ripen when few good varieties do. Out of this pioneering program came the Dean, Delight, and Late Alamar peaches.

Richard "Dick" Fowler, Gene's grandson, joined the family business managing the Garden Center that had been added to the company, with his wife Terry working closely by his side. Nancy Fowler-Johnson, Gene's granddaughter, also joined the family business to spearhead the Commercial Division of Fowler Nurseries. Her husband, Everett "Ev" Johnson led the Forest Conifer Division.

After several decades in business, Fowler Nurseries continues to put great emphasis on research and has established the Research and Product Development Department. Fowler Nurseries has traveled the world to form new business associations and was a participant in the United Nations Environmental Protection meetings held in Austria.

FISCAL IMPACT

NONE

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**IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION RECOGNIZING FOWLER NURSERIES
ON THEIR 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 PLACER
GROWN FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

WHEREAS, In 1912, Eugene "Gene" Fowler, worked at The Silva Bergtholdt Company in Newcastle, CA and was asked by Judge Silva to produce 20,000 pear trees in the highly fertile soils of Newcastle, hence Fowler Nurseries was founded; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, many local Japanese growers and Japanese employees working for Fowler Nurseries were sent to relocation camps. Gene Fowler's determination, along with the help of the local community, assisted in getting crops harvested and delivered for the Japanese growers until they returned; and

WHEREAS, In the 1940's, Robert "Bob" Fowler joined his father, Gene, in nursery operations. During this time, Fowler Nurseries, in cooperation with UC Davis, began research on virus diseases of fruit and almond trees. Gene and Bob also designed a unique tree digger mounted on a crawler for harvesting crops which became the second high-clearance tree digger in California; and

WHEREAS, Fowler Nurseries embarked on a program to discover new rootstocks and varieties that would ripen when few good varieties do. Out of this pioneering program came the Dean, Delight, and Late Alamar peaches; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Dick" Fowler, Gene's grandson, joined the family business managing the Garden Center that had been added to the company, with his wife Terry working closely by his side. Nancy Fowler-Johnson, Gene's granddaughter, also joined the family business to spearhead the Commercial Division of Fowler Nurseries. Her husband, Everett "Ev" Johnson led the Forest Conifer Division; and

WHEREAS, After several decades in business, Fowler Nurseries continues to put great emphasis on research and has established the Research and Product Development Department. Fowler Nurseries has traveled the world to form new business associations and was a participant in the United Nations Environmental Protection meetings held in Austria.

NOW THERE FOR LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors on May 22, 2012, takes great pride in congratulating Fowler Nurseries, Inc. on their 100 year anniversary as well as winning the prestigious Placer Grown 2012 Farmer of the Year Award. Gene Fowler's passion continues to include growing the highest quality trees, innovating new practices, and maintaining an unsurpassed integrity.

Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor, District 5
Chairwoman 2012

Jack Duran Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 1 Supervisor, District 2

Jim Holmes Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 3 Supervisor, District 4