



**HONORARY PROCLAMATION
DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023 AS
"NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"**

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual and intimate partner violence is widespread and impacts every person in Arroyo Grande; and

WHEREAS, RISE and Stand Strong officially merged on July 1, 2021, to form Lumina Alliance, an agency that serves survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence throughout all of San Luis Obispo County; and

WHEREAS, although progress has been made toward preventing and ending sexual violence and providing support to survivors and their families, important work remains to be done and there is a need to focus on the individualized needs of sexual violence survivors; and

WHEREAS, the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, transgender individuals, and those living with disabilities, increases their vulnerability to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE continues to provide a safe environment to those affected by sexual violence with crisis intervention, counseling, education, and emergency safe housing, with the help of dedicated volunteers and professionals; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE provided services to 1,472 people in 2022, including answering 2,440 calls from the crisis line, and provided 417 survivors with more than 6,200 therapy hours; and

WHEREAS, LUMINA ALLIANCE encourages the community to recognize our collective power to create a culture that simultaneously supports survivors and nurtures a world where everyone can live free from violence.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arroyo Grande strongly supports the efforts of LUMINA ALLIANCE and its efforts to demonstrate how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence, and how to help survivors connect with services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Caren Ray Russom, Mayor of the City of Arroyo Grande, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as "National Sexual Assault Awareness Month".

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Arroyo Grande to be affixed this 11th day of April 2023.



CAREN RAY RUSSOM, MAYOR