March 10, 2021

Dear Don Diego Scholarship Board,

It is with great pleasure that I write this Letter of Recommendation for Elizabeth Hazard. I met Elizabeth when she walked into my San Diego County Fair Garden Show planning meeting as a high school freshman. She was the only teenager in attendance, and this was the first time that

San Dieguito High School Academy had participated in the Garden Show. I was thrilled that

Elizabeth had taken the initiative to enter the competition, and even more excited when Elizabeth took the helm for her newly formed California Native Plant Club and involved students in the process.

As a freshman she entered and led her group to create “108 Gumplant Lane”, (a play on the Fair theme “How Sweet it is”) and designed a vision of what she wanted her Club headquarters to look like. I was so impressed with her diligence and focus to see the project through to completion and excel in her efforts proving her ability to lead with integrity. The Club members were so proud of their accomplishments, they brought family and friends to the Fair to take photos with the Exhibit. That year her Club won the *California Native Plant Society Donated Award, Coastal Sage Green Ribbon Donated Award, San Diego Botanic Garden Youth Donated Award, San Diego Floral Association Youth Donated Award and the San Diego Horticultural Society Best Native Plant Garden Donated Award.*

As a direct result of Elizabeth’s accomplishments and leadership, she grew her Club from 7 members to 22 members and entered again as a sophomore. Her exhibit in 2019 was once again amazing! “Something Twisted This Way Comes” was her take on the Wizard of Oz Fair theme “Ozsome”, that included a witch’s shed, a swirling tornado of invasive plants, night lighting and a bubbling cauldron. She wowed the judges and received 9 awards, including *Outstanding Student Landscape, Organic Earth Care Student Donated Award, CA Native Plant*

*Society Student Garden Donated Award, Mira Costa College Horticulture Department Youth*

*Donated Award, San Diego Botanic Garden Youth Donated Award, Coastal Sage Green Ribbon*

*Donated Award, SD Hort. Best Native Plant Garden Donated Award, SD Hort. Best Youth Garden Donated Award and Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Youth Donated Award.* Her exhibit was extremely educational about the use of native plants as well as plants to avoid.

Elizabeth has a thirst for knowledge and is a true leader and is both honest and an outstanding member of the San Diego community. I know she will go places as she has the ability and competency to do whatever she sets her mind to. This scholarship would help her to achieve her goals.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Benoit

San Diego County Fair Garden Show Coordinator