

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 23-

**RECOGNITION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR AS A NEWLY DESIGNATED
ANNUAL HOLIDAY AT SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year is celebrated by approximately 1.5 billion people around the world in China, Vietnam, Mongolia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and other countries; and

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year holiday marks the start of the new lunisolar calendar year, in which the first day occurs between late January and early February after the winter solstice and culturally signifies a time for family reunion, renewed hope, and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2596 (Low) into legislation declaring Lunar New Year to be a state holiday—a way to “acknowledge the diversity and cultural significance Asian Americans bring to California”; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Governor’s signature, the bill was introduced during a tumultuous time during the COVID-19 pandemic when anti-Asian sentiment was on the rise and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs wrote in support of the California Legislature for sending “a powerful message of equity, unity, and solidarity with its Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities”; and

WHEREAS, California has the largest Asian American population in the United States with over 6 million people and Chinese, Filipino, Indian, and Vietnamese communities are the most populous Asian American communities in the state; and

WHEREAS, at Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water), we recognize the historical significance and contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and their critical role as members of our workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District hereby recognizes Lunar New Year as an annual California holiday to be observed with the state’s Lunar New Year observance.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District recognizes Lunar New Year and adds the date as a paid holiday to our list of annually observed holidays, beginning in 2023, in accordance with the state-adopted holiday. Valley Water will also provide each employee with one (1) extra vacation day to be added to each employee’s vacation balance in lieu of not receiving the holiday this year for the Fiscal Year 2023 observance of the Lunar New Year. This is because Valley Water was unable to observe the paid Lunar New Year holiday this year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by
the following vote on February 28, 2023:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JOHN L. VARELA
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk, Board of Directors