

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

RESOLUTION NO. 23-

**DECLARING MARCH 26 THROUGH APRIL 1, 2023,
AS A WEEK OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN HONOR OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ**

WHEREAS, César Chávez recognized that for many people, spanning many generations and ethnicities, the path to a better life frequently begins in the fields. For many farmworkers, the American Dream means a life of self-sacrifice, hard work, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez and Fred Ross, an organizer for the Community Service Organization (CSO), established CSO chapters across California and Arizona during the 1950s, helping Latinos register to vote, pushing for basic public services and infrastructure in the barrios, peacefully resisting police brutality and racial discrimination, and creating one of the most effective Latino civil rights groups of its era; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later became the United Farm Workers Union [UFW]) that went on to achieve the first collective bargaining agreement between farmworkers and growers in the United States; the first union contracts requiring safe labor conditions such as rest periods, clean drinking water, handwashing facilities, and protective clothing against pesticide exposure; the first ban on pesticide spraying while workers were in the fields; the first ban on DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) and other dangerous pesticides; and the first and only functioning pension plan for retired farmworkers; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, in a partnership with a union of Filipino American farmworkers, César Chávez organized a major strike against grape growers in California. The following year César Chávez led an unprecedented 340-mile march, from Delano to Sacramento, that placed the farmworkers' plight before the conscience of the American people. Supporters carried slogans with the words "HUELGA" (strike) and "VIVA LA CAUSA" (long live our cause), demanding dignity, better wages, and improved labor conditions. Successful efforts resulted in the enactment of California's historic Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, the first law in the nation to "encourage and protect" the right of farmworkers to organize and bargain; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez successfully increased public awareness of current-day farmworker working conditions, often believed by many to be an issue solely in the past. However, the fruits and vegetables that we enjoy are produced by farmworkers who often endure grueling hours of backbreaking work and still face challenges of inadequate enforcement of pesticide, safety, and labor protection laws in the fields; and

WHEREAS, through countless strikes, boycotts, marches, and fasts that produced many victories and some defeats, César Chávez never stopped his peaceful battles on behalf of the farmworkers with whom he shared his life. His dedication to his work earned him the respect of some of our greatest political and civil rights leaders, including Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. César Chávez's motto in life, "Sí Se Puede!" or "Yes We Can!" has served as an inspiration not only for Latinos, but for working people throughout the world and all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, it is the vision of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) to provide safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy. This includes water resources necessary for the crops we consume as well as the health of the people who tend to them. This aligns with Valley Water priorities of reducing toxins, hazards, and contaminants in our waterways and supporting the public health and safety of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District hereby declares March 26–April 1, 2023, as a week of public service in honor of César Chávez in alignment with the César Chávez Day observed March 31. Valley Water will honor the legacy of César Chávez through educational activities led by the Organization for Latino Affairs, a Valley Water Employee Resource Group.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on March 14, 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