

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

RESOLUTION NO. 22-

**DECLARING JUNE 19, 2022, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY”
IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH
SLAVERY ENDED IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Liberation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” “Black Independence Day,” and “Jubilee Day,” commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865, almost two and one-half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, on that day, Union Army Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of both the Civil War and slavery, and read aloud General Order No. 3, which stated in part: “The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equity of rights and rights of property between masters and former slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer”; and

WHEREAS, the formerly enslaved people in Texas celebrated their freedom on June 19, 1865, and such celebrations gradually evolved into the official commemorative holiday that has become known as “Juneteenth,” which continues to be celebrated throughout the United States through education, festivities, ceremonies, food, and other cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth allowed formerly enslaved persons and their descendants to recount memories of that great day in 1865 when freedom was proclaimed, and served as an inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as an extremely significant day of remembrance and acknowledgment of the history, freedom, culture, strength, perseverance, and achievement of the past, present, and future generations of the African American community; and

WHEREAS, while Juneteenth is a time for celebration, it is also a time for reflection, education, and self-improvement; to recognize the significant roles that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and how African Americans have enriched society through their steadfast commitment to promoting freedom, unity, and equality; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the State of Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday and in 2021 the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) Board of Directors designated Juneteenth an official Valley Water holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, passed into federal law in June of 2021 and is now celebrated in all 50 States, US territories, and the District of Columbia as a federal holiday in commemoration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates and honors African American ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance, and now serves as a historic milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District hereby recognizes June 19, 2022, as Juneteenth Independence Day and:

1. Recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;
2. Supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for Valley Water staff to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and
3. Recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on May 24, 2022:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JOHN L. VARELA

Chair Pro Tem, Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk, Board of Directors