

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-0610**

**DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2021, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY”  
IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH SLAVERY  
CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19<sup>th</sup> as the African American Emancipation Day had spread across the United States and beyond but not until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, commemorative presentations, cookouts, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Juneteenth theme is “The Continual Evolution of Juneteenth,” it is important to continue celebrating the many achievements of African Americans in an effort to offer each American a broader perspective of the history of this nation and an appreciation for the diversity that makes this great nation strong; and

WHEREAS, some states such as Texas, New York, and Pennsylvania have made Juneteenth, an annual recognized holiday, and Santa Clara County is the first county in California to make Juneteenth a paid county holiday; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this resolution helps to recognize the historical significance of designating June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Independence Day in the United States, supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day at Valley Water, and provides an opportunity for staff to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States, and recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in Recognition of  
June 19, 1865, the Date on Which Slavery Came to an End in the United States

Resolution No. 21-

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District that on June 8, 2021, the Board:

1. Designates June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Independence Day;
2. Recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States
3. 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
4. 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 Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on June 8, 2021:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TONY ESTREMER  
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

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Clerk/Board of Directors