

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-

**RECOGNITION OF JUNETEENTH, AS A
NEWLY DESIGNATED ANNUAL HOLIDAY AT VALLEY WATER**

WHEREAS, the date of June 19th, also known as “Juneteenth,” “Emancipation Day,” “Liberation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” “Black Independence Day,” and “Jubilee Day,” commemorates and marks the effective end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865, almost two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863; 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 chattel slavery in the United States, 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 equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor”*; 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 is celebrated throughout the United States through education, festivities, ceremonies, cookouts, and other cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Juneteenth allowed formerly enslaved African Americans and their descendants to recount memories of that historic 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, reflection, and acknowledgment of the history, resilience, perseverance, strength, freedom, culture, achievements, and contributions of the past, present, and future generations of the African American diaspora; and

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

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1980, the state of Texas became the nation’s first state to recognize Juneteenth as an official state holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is now celebrated in 48 States and the District of Columbia as a special day in observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States; and in 1997, Congress recognized June 19th as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” and, on September 21, 2020, Santa Clara County became the first county in the state of California to adopt Juneteenth as an official county holiday; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth holds a uniquely important place in United States history for all Americans to learn about and appreciate the struggles, triumphs, and continued growth of our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates and honors African American ancestors who survived the barbaric institution of human 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; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed Juneteenth into law as the eleventh federally recognized holiday.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Valley Water does hereby recognize Juneteenth now and forever more as an annual national holiday to be observed coterminously with the federal government Juneteenth observance.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors formally recognizes Juneteenth and adds the date as a paid holiday to our list of observed annual holidays, beginning in 2022, in accordance with the federal 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 FY21 in observance of Juneteenth. This is due to the fact that Valley Water was unable to observe Juneteenth this year as a result of the short timeframe between it becoming law on June 17, 2021, and the actual holiday.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on July 13, 2021:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

TONY ESTREMER
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk, Board of Directors