

Resolution No. 2023-

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2023 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, "Native American Heritage Month" has been celebrated at the national and state levels with proclamations to recognize the diverse cultures, traditions, histories, significant contributions and present day lives of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, since long before the Spanish and other Euro-Americans arrived in the area today known as Solano County, the area was home to indigenous people known as the Patwin, or Southern Wintun; and

WHEREAS, the County is, in fact, named for a Patwin leader, Sina or Sem Yeto, whom Spanish missionaries christened and assigned the Spanish name of "Solano"; and

WHEREAS, the earliest historic written records of the Patwin (which literally means "people" in the native tribal language) begin with the Spanish mission explorations and registers, and ethno-historic records show the Patwin inhabited the lower hills of the eastern North Coast Ranges to the Sacramento River, and from Princeton south to the San Pablo and Suisun bays, including the City of Vallejo; and

WHEREAS, even though Solano County contains no reservations, the County of Solano today enjoys a government-to-government relationship with the closest Patwin tribe, and specifically, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, whose people live in an area now known as the Capay Valley in Yolo County, and which literally means "home by the spring water"; and

WHEREAS, Yocha Dehe is recognized by the State's Native American Heritage Commission as the Most Likely Descendent of the Patwin people buried in Solano County, and so it works closely with local governments and agencies throughout the County to protect sacred burial sites from disturbance and desecration; and

WHEREAS, Yocha Dehe, along with its sister Patwin Tribe Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, helped save a controversial waterfront park project the City of Vallejo's Glen Cove, negotiating a landmark cultural easement that satisfied opponents, while protecting the burial sites and sacred resources contained there, and allowing the Patwin tribes to practice their traditional ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, even though the Yocha Dehe people lived in grinding poverty for many decades after being settled on a remote rancheria without sufficient water resources and economic opportunities, the Tribe has a history of sharing the fruits of its success with others, having established a philanthropic fund in 2000 that has supported various non-profits and public interest causes within Solano County. In that same spirit, the Tribe renegotiated its gaming compact with the State of California in 2016, securing the right to redirect money that would otherwise go to the State's general fund, among other recipients, local governments and people in need, including Solano County; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has successfully partnered with Solano County to support several health and welfare programs designed to improve the lives of people in its ancestral territory, and the County greatly values its relationship with the Patwin tribe; and

WHEREAS Solano County honors the history of Yocha Dehe and its sister Patwin tribes, in tribute to all the people of Patwin descent whose ancestors once resided in Solano County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Solano County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize November 2023, as Native American Heritage Month in Solano County.

Dated this 7th day of November 2023

JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BILL EMLLEN, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Alicia Draves, Chief Deputy Clerk