



## PROCLAMATION NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2024

**WHEREAS**, "Native American Heritage Month" has been established at the national and state levels with proclamations and celebrations to recognize the diverse cultures, traditions, histories, significant contributions, and present day lives of Native Americans. The state of California is home to more people of Native American heritage than any other state in the country. There are currently 109 federally recognized tribes in California and several non-federally recognized tribes petitioning for federal recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Federal Acknowledgement; 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**, 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 at 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. 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that I, Robert H. McConnell, Mayor of the City of Vallejo, and the Vallejo City Council do hereby proclaim November as "Native American Heritage Month" and we encourage every member of our community to learn more about the rich heritage of the Yocha Dehe and its sister Patwin tribes, and all of the people of Patwin descent whose ancestors once resided in Vallejo and Solano County.

**Dated:** November 19, 2024



  
ROBERT H. MCCONNELL, Mayor

Vice-Mayor Mina Loera-Diaz, District 3  
Council Member Cristina Arriola, District 6  
Council Member Peter Bregenzer, District 5  
Council Member Diosdado 'JR' Matulac, District 2  
Council Member Charles Palmares, District 4  
Council Member Rozzana Verder-Aliga, EdD, District 1