

**PROCLAMATION
OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**



WHEREAS, Special districts are local governmental entities created by a community's residents, funded by those residents, and overseen by those residents, to provide specialized services and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, today, just over 2,000 independent special districts provide millions of Californians with essential services, including services related to water, sanitation and water recycling, fire protection, electricity, parks and recreation, health care, open space, ports and harbors, flood protection, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, airports, transit, road maintenance, veterans' facilities, and more; and

WHEREAS, under the Wright Act of 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District became California's first special district and made it possible for local farmers to intensify and diversify agriculture in California's Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, in the 20th century, special districts increased dramatically in both number and scope, and during the periods of prosperity and population growth that followed both world wars when the demand for all types of public services increased, and special districts met that need; and

WHEREAS, although originally created to provide individual services, in 1961 the Legislature authorized special districts to address multiple needs, when it provided for multipurpose, community services districts; and

WHEREAS, Special Districts vary in size and scope and serve diverse communities throughout California, from small rural neighborhoods, to large urban regions; and

WHEREAS, local residents own special districts and govern them through locally elected or appointed boards. A series of sunshine laws ensure special districts remain transparent and accountable to the communities they serve, as these laws require open and public meetings, public access to records, regular audits, online posting of finances and compensation, and more; and

WHEREAS, to prevent overlapping services and ensure that local agencies are operating effectively and efficiently to meet communities' needs, special districts are formed, reviewed, consolidated, or dissolved through a methodical local process that includes the oversight of a local agency formation commission and the consent of local voters; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, several independent special districts formed a statewide association called the California Special Districts Association, commonly referred to as the CSDA, to promote good governance and improved essential local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors does hereby join the California State Legislature in proclaiming the week of May 16, 2021 to May 22, 2021, inclusive, to be Special Districts Week and encourages all residents to be involved in their community and be civically engaged with their local government.

DATED: May 11, 2021

Virginia Bass, Chair