

COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

PROCLAMATION JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, the Cosumnes Community Services District is a welcoming community and dedicated to saving lives and enriching the lives of our residents we serve; and

WHEREAS, August 2019 marked 400 years since the first arrival of Africans to colonial America, and the United States Congress has established the 400 Years of African-American History Commission to commemorate the historic heritage and contributions that Americans of African descent have made to help shape the cultural, academic, social, economic, and moral attributes of this nation; and

WHEREAS, In August 1619 the first documented Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. The group recorded upon arrival as “20 and odd Negroes,” was part of a larger group of West Africans enslaved by Portuguese slave traders. They were on their way to Veracruz, Mexico, aboard a Spanish ship when they were captured off the coast of Mexico by an English privateer ship and transported to Virginia, where they were put ashore at what is now Hampton, Virginia, and sold as involuntary laborers or indentured servants; and

WHEREAS, Even after the lapse of California’s Fugitive Slave Law in 1855, masters informally held enslaved people in California until 1864, and it was not until June 28, 1864, that all fugitive slave laws were officially repealed; and

WHEREAS, Slavery had not yet been institutionalized, so the Africans were informed they would work under contract for a certain period of time before being granted freedom and the rights afforded other settlers. However, while European indentured servants were listed along with their year of expected freedom, no such information accompanied the names of the African indentured servants; and

WHEREAS, in 1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring all enslaved people “shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free”; and

WHEREAS, Texas, as part of the Confederacy, was resistant to the Emancipation Proclamation. But on June 18, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its slaves. Former slaves in Galveston rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations. The following day, June 19th, became known as “Juneteenth,” a name derived from a portmanteau of words “June” and “nineteenth.” Juneteenth celebrations began in Texas the following year; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the U.S. as the proclamation reached the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy; and

WHEREAS, 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, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and for planning the future; and

WHEREAS, the Cosumnes Community Services District acknowledges this shared history and commits itself to the principles of equity and is actively dedicated to diversity and inclusion initiatives in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be proclaimed that the Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2020 as a day to commemorate Juneteenth, and urge all citizens to help further the promise of freedom and equality for all,

JUNETEENTH

And do urge all those in the Cosumnes Community Services District to support and promote this observance.

Orlando Fuentes, President

Jim Luttrell, Vice President

Rod Brewer, Director



Gil Albiani, Director

Jaclyn Moreno, Director

Joshua Green, General Manager

ATTEST: