

# COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

## RECOGNITION

### HMONG AMERICAN DAY

**WHEREAS**, Cosumnes Community Services District is guided by the principals of inclusivity in its commitment to help improve the lives of all individuals in the diverse community we serve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hmong are an ethnically and culturally diverse people originally from Southern China and migrated throughout Southeast Asia, specifically Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Vietnam War, the Central Intelligence Agency and United States Armed Forces recruited, organized, trained, and assisted Hmong forces to support the American war effort against the North Vietnamese, and when the United States withdrew from the war in the early 1970s, the Hmong faced harsh retribution and many of them fled out of Laos to escape genocide; and

**WHEREAS**, May 14, 2023, marks the forty-eighth anniversary of the fall of Long Cheng, a United States-Hmong airbase in Laos during the Laotian Civil War where the Hmong allied with the United States fought together in Laos against the North Vietnamese, also known as the Secret War from 1961-1975; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 30,000-40,000 Hmong soldiers were killed during the Secret War, that included many Hmong soldiers who were under 18 years old, the United States helped Hmong refugees flee to Thailand on May 14, 1975 and more than 100,000 Hmong refugees to come to the United States starting in December, 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, May 14 (Hmong American Day) is a time to remember and honor Hmong people's history, stories, and contributions in the Vietnam War, May 14, 1975, was the last airlift evacuation of Hmong soldiers and families from Laos to refugee camps in Thailand; and

**WHEREAS**, many Hmong refugees and their families immigrated to the United States, and today over 40,000 of the more than 325,000 Hmong Americans are residents of Sacramento County; and

**WHEREAS**, like many immigrant groups before them, Hmong refugees resettled to the United States to escape war and persecution, to find opportunities and to better their lives and the lives of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, Hmong Americans are helping build a vibrant and diverse California, contributing socially, politically, and economically to our State, many of the Hmong have become America's success stories from having nothing to becoming teachers, engineers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, business owners, professional athletes, fire fighters, soldiers, elected officials and more. Today recognizes and celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Hmong Americans in California.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors does hereby recognizes May 14 of 2023, as: Hmong American Day and invites staff and the community to learn more about the cultures, people, traditions, and values that have positively enriched the community.

**DONE AND PROCLAIMED** this 14th day of May, in Elk Grove, California..

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gil Albani, President

  
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Jim Lattrell, Vice President

  
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Peter Sakaris, Director



**ATTEST:**

  
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Joshua Green, General Manager / CEO

  
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Angela Spease, Director