

COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNISING HMONG AMERICAN DAY

WHEREAS, Cosumnes Community Services District is guided by the principles 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 (CIA) 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, in the shadows of the Vietnam War, the CIA conducted a war in Laos that relied on Hmong soldiers to prevent the threat of communism from spreading deeper into Southeast Asia, also known as the Secret War from 1959-1975; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30,000-40,000 Hmong soldiers were killed during the Secret War, including 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 came 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 to the Vietnam War, May 14, 1975, was the last airlift evacuation of Hmong soldiers and families from Laos to refugee camps in Thailand; and

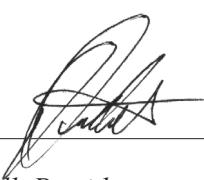
WHEREAS, many Hmong refugees and their families immigrated to the United States, and today over 40,000 of the more than 325,000 Hmong Americans are residents of Sacramento County; and

WHEREAS, 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, firefighters, soldiers, elected officials and more. Today, it recognizes and celebrates Hmong Americans' history, culture, and contributions to California.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors does hereby recognizes May 14 of 2024, as:

HMONG AMERICAN DAY

and invites personnel and the community to learn more about the cultures, people, traditions, and values that have positively enriched this community.



Jim Luttrell, President



Angela Spease, Vice President



Peter Sakaris, Director



COSUMNES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Orlando Fuentes, Director



Gil Albani, Director

ATTEST:



Phil Lewis, General Manager/ CEO