

# COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

## PROCLAMATION

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WHEREAS,** Cosumnes Community Services District is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its residents by stewarding parks and protecting natural lands, providing recreational programs that uplift youth and strengthen communities, and delivering essential fire protection and emergency medical services that ensure public safety; and

**WHEREAS,** the District is guided by the principles of equity and inclusivity in its commitment to improve the lives of all individuals and the community as a whole; and

**WHEREAS,** the District recognizes the importance of exploring historical issues that have shaped race relations in America and consequently impact the health and wellness of our Black community members; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month has been nationally recognized by every U.S. President since 1976 and is an opportunity to reflect on the struggle for freedom and equal opportunity in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS,** Black History Month allows our community to unite and celebrate the many achievements of Black Americans and other peoples of African descent; and


**WHEREAS,** Black and African Americans have made lasting contributions to the stewardship and conservation of public lands. Notable figures include Charles Young, the first African American national park superintendent who led the Buffalo Soldiers in the development and protection of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks; Shelton Johnson, a Yosemite National Park Ranger who connects minorities to national parks and shares the Buffalo Soldiers' legacy; and Audrey and Frank Peterman, advocates for diversity in outdoor recreation and conservation, ensuring public parks remain welcoming spaces for all; and

**WHEREAS,** Black and African American leaders have advanced recreational programs that uplift youth and communities. Among them are the inspiring Vonetta Flowers, the first Black athlete to win a Winter Olympic gold medal; boxing champion Laila Ali, who promotes healthy lifestyles through youth fitness programs; and visionary publisher John H. Johnson, who supported recreational opportunities for underserved youth; and

**WHEREAS,** Black and African Americans have played a pioneering role in firefighting and emergency response, including Patrick H. Raymond, who became the first Black fire chief in the U.S. and worked to professionalize the fire service; The Vulcan Society, a fraternal organization of Black firefighters in New York City that has fought for equity and inclusion in the fire service since the 1940s; and Brenda Berkman, a trailblazer whose advocacy helped open doors for women and minorities in the field; and

**WHEREAS,** Black and African Americans have shaped modern emergency medical services. Notably, the Freedom House Ambulance Service trained the first Black professional paramedics in the U.S. and set the standard for EMS nationwide; Dr. Daniel Hale Williams advanced emergency medical care and established the first Black-owned hospital in the U.S.; and firefighter-paramedic John Moon helped develop EMS programs that serve diverse communities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors does hereby proclaim February 2025 as Black History Month and invites staff and the community to help further efforts of equality through education and activism.

  
Angela Spease, President

  
Peter Sakaris, Vice President

  
Jim Luttrell, Director



  
Daniella Zehnder, Director

  
Rich Lozano, Director

**ATTEST:**   
Amanda Chehrezad,  
Interim General Manager