



**Yolo County Board of Education and
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

Resolution #22-23/23

California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month (November 2022)

WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 100 years, and during the early 20th century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines, and on the Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, first entered California in 1899 through the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, by 1910, these pioneers turned to farming in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, the first Sikh house of worship (gurdwara) in the United States was founded in Stockton by Jawala Singh and Wasakha Singh and still continues welcome worshippers and visitors today; and

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world; and

WHEREAS, legislation to authorize Sikhs and other East Indian immigrants to naturalize as United States citizens was not enacted until 1946; and

WHEREAS, roughly half of the estimated 500,000 Americans of Sikh origin in the United States reside in California; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of California and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have made significant contributions to our great nation in agriculture, trucking, medicine and technology; and

WHEREAS, Sikh farmers contribute abundantly towards production of peaches, raisins, grapes, almonds, pistachios, okra, and other specialized crops of fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the California State Board of Education passed a recommendation to include Sikh history in the state's History-Social Science Framework, ensuring that Sikhism is accurately preserved; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Education is proclaiming November as "California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month" and encourages its students, staff, and administration to participate in meaningful activities to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of October 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Esquivel, Souza Cole, Yip, Zendejas

NOES: None

ABSENT: Moreno



Tico Zendejas, Vice President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools