

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**Resolution No.:**

Adopt a resolution recognizing every May as “**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**” in Monterey County and honoring the Salinas Confucius Church.

**WHEREAS**, The month of May was chosen as **Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month** to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have made indelible contributions to the history of California and the United States that include, but are not limited to, building the Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the Armed Forces, fighting for the United States in foreign wars, co-organizing the Delano Grape Strike, and advocating for civil rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders have endured hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and discrimination in some of the darkest times in our states and nation’s history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, anti-miscegenation laws, and the Japanese American internment; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders continue to cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business, technology, education, science, government, law, humanities, medicine, sports, and entertainment, to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, California is home to over 6,300,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian American and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Asian American and Pacific Islanders constitute 16 percent of California’s population and represent diverse ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai, Tongan, and other Pacific Islander; and

**WHEREAS**, Over 26,000 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live in the County of Monterey; and

**WHEREAS**, California’s Asian American and Pacific Islander entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally, and own 15 percent of businesses in California; and

**WHEREAS**, Celebrating **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** provides Californians with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

**WHEREAS**, The Asian Cultural Experience (A.C.E.) is a multi-ethnic non-profit organization that is dedicated to the historical and cultural preservation of Salinas Chinatown. ACE prides itself on and is devoted to the mission of preserving, promoting and enriching the history and multicultural identify of Salinas Chinatown; and

**WHEREAS**, ACE provides a lens into the past highlighting the historical timeline of when Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos arrived in the Salinas Valley. In 1865, the Central Pacific Railroad recruited Chinese workers to build the transcontinental railroad and in 1866, Chinese workers arrived in Salinas with the railroad. In the mid-1870's, Chinese laborers cleared and drained lakes and swamps to create fertile land for farming in and around Salinas which helped shape the future of agriculture throughout Monterey County; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1872, Salinas' first Chinatown was established in the vicinity of the current North Main Street underpass bordered by the Southern Pacific Rail Road tracks, San Juan Road (now North Main Street), Pajaro Street (now Bridge Street) and Lake Street. The Salinas Chinatown had a Chinese temple, stores and dwellings. However, on June 13, 1893, this Chinatown was destroyed by a fire; and

**WHEREAS**, Just a few days after the fire, six Chinese merchants negotiated with a landowner by the name of Eugene Sherwood to lease eight lots on the corners of Soledad and E. Lake Street where they began construction of Salinas' current Chinatown, becoming a home, a place to work, shop and socialize for many Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos; and

**WHEREAS**, The 1890, Census showed 1,667 Chinese resident in Monterey County. In 1900, the Chinese Association of Salinas purchased land for a Chinese Cemetery on Natividad Road for a \$100 gold coin. In 1937, headquarters of the Chinese Association of Salinas was completed at 1 California Street, one block from Soledad Street, becoming the Chinese community center with a Chinese School, playground, meeting hall, offices and kitchen. In 1959, Salinas Chinese Youth Association was formed by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Salinas Lodge #11.

**WHEREAS**, Spiritual needs were met in Chinatown, and buildings were established to that end: the Japanese Buddhist Temple, a Chinese joss house (temple) to honor the ancestors, the Filipino Presbyterian Church, and the Confucius Church. These organizations also helped to educate the children of Chinatown. The Salinas Confucius Church provides the Chinese American community a religious, social and peaceful place to gather, promoting a strong sense of pride.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, declare every May as “**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**” in Monterey County and honor the Salinas Confucius Church, which provides our residents with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements, contributions, cultures, and rich history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our county and beyond.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy