

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

States and Resolution No.:

Adopt a resolution declaring every March 31 as “Farmworkers Appreciation Day” and “Cesar Chavez Day” in Monterey County and honoring Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueño.

WHEREAS, Monterey County’s agricultural sector is among the most productive in the world. The total economic impacts of the agricultural production in Monterey County are estimated at almost 12 billion when allied businesses, employee paychecks, and value-added processing are tallied in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County’s agricultural production helps feed the nation and the rest of the world. Home to some of the richest farmlands in the United States, Monterey County is the largest producer of lettuce and a top producer of strawberries, broccoli, wine grapes and other fresh produce; and

WHEREAS, The inexhaustible efforts of millions of hardworking and dedicated farmworkers have contributed greatly to the success of the agricultural industry and to Monterey County being known as the “Salad Bowl of the World”; and

WHEREAS, Farmworkers in Monterey County contribute significantly to our agricultural accomplishments by toiling in fields through harsh and extreme weather conditions and growing, harvesting, and preparing goods for markets and destinations in the United abroad; and

WHEREAS, The fruits and vegetables that we enjoy in our daily lives are produced by farmworkers who often endure long hours of backbreaking and arduous work; and

WHEREAS, Farmworkers still dream of providing a better life for their children, but the reality of many having to move from crop to crop, a lack of documented immigration status and other barriers makes this dream hard to achieve; and

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez is one of the most significant civil rights leaders in the history of our nation. César Chávez recognized that the dignity of a society can be measured by the dignity by which the people who help feed our nation are treated; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez experienced the hardships and injustices of farmworker life firsthand. He was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, Arizona, on the small family farm his grandfather homesteaded; and

WHEREAS, César Chávez’s father lost the farm during the Great Depression, forcing the family to join some 30,000 farmworkers who followed the crops throughout California and lived in tents and makeshift housing that often lacked a bathroom, electricity, or running water; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the Legislature passed and Governor Gray Davis signed into law Senate Bill 984 to create the first annual state holiday in the country on César Chávez’s birthday, March 31; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, the State Board of Education has a statewide curriculum on César Chávez and encourages schools across the state to engage teachers and students in service learning projects as a way of honoring the legendary farm labor and civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, leaders of the Oaxaqueño community founded the Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño to support Oaxacan Indigenous communities and their families, many who work in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño is the first community based indigenous-led organization in the state. They make sure our communities, culture, languages, and knowledge are recognized and respected by the systems and institutions that impact their lives.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents thereof, declare every March 31 as “Farmworkers Appreciation Day” and “Cesar Chavez Day” in Monterey County and hereby recognizes the hard work and self-sacrifice that farmworkers go through to put food on the table of millions of Americans across our nation and to ensure a stable food supply. Our county expresses our sincerest thanks to our farmworkers for providing a bounty to our nation and entire world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, hereby honors César Chávez’s birthday, March 31, and encourages our residents and youth to learn from César Chávez’s life and his mission of nonviolence, social justice, and selfless service to others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, hereby honors Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño for their ongoing effective advocacy on behalf of farmworkers and Indigenous communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this ____ day of _____, 2024, upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk to 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 Minute Book ____ for the meeting on _____.

Dated:

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

By _____

Deputy