

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

Resolution No.:

Adopt Resolution Recognizing **Organización Valles Centrales** on the **16th Anniversary of Guelaguetza Salinas 2025.**

WHEREAS, Organizacion Valles Centrales (OVC) is hosting the annual Oaxacan joint communities' festival, known as Guelaguetza. Guelaguetza originates from Zapotex Guendalezaa, meaning "to give and offer". This festival pays tribute to the international celebration in the state of Oaxaca, Guelaguetza, that takes place on the third week of July and has been hosted since the Pre-Hispanic era; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Oaxacan Indigenous communities have rooted and grown in the Salinas Valley. In California, there are six mayor Oaxacan communities represented, from the coast of San Diego to north of San Francisco. The history of Guelaguetzas in California began over 20 years ago when Oaxacans throughout California came together to create a foundation that would educate California about their traditions, hoping it would stop discrimination and misrepresentation of the culture; and

WHEREAS, The Guelaguetzas membership is proud of who they are, embowing Oaxacan communities and sharing its rich history and culture throughout California. The Guelaguetza travels statewide, some communities include, Oaxacan organizations from Los Angeles, San Jose, Sonoma, Fresno, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Oxnard, Salinas, resulting in more than 17 Guelaguetzas across California; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the Santos Family joined sister organization Lazos Oaxaqueños with Guelaguetza San Jose, and with their support, the family hoped to highlight indigenous groups of the Monterey County. The proposal came to the Santos Family, owners of La Soledad Bakery in Salinas. At the time Delia G. Santos, was promoting Oaxacan culture and collaborating with Oaxacan groups in Los Angeles, San Jose San Diego and other cities that were already celebrating their Guelaguetza. Delia G. Santos was the pioneer of Oaxacan traditions being implemented in Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, the first ever Guelaguetza Salinas was hosted at La Soledad Bakery's backyard on Wood St. and was promoted with the support of the community and among farmworkers. Delia G. Santos and her family visited Salinas Valley agriculture fields to personally invite farmworkers. Guelaguetza Salinas was a huge success and accepted by the community, hosting hundreds of visitors not only from Monterey County, but from across California; and

WHEREAS, For the next three years, Guelaguetza Salinas operated under the umbrella of Lazos Oaxaqueños organization from San Jose. The Santos family eventually adopted its own organization, motivated by the family's region in Oaxaca known as Valles Centrales, and the similarities it shared with the Salinas Valley, the family honored Monterey County by naming the groups as Organizacion Valles Centrales; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Sandra Iveth Santos, took over as president of Organizacion Valles Centrales. During this time, Guelaguetza Salinas had grown significantly which emphasized the

need for a larger space to accommodate its many tourists, locals, dancer performers and food vendors. The organization has faced many challenges along the way, from funding, support, location, COVID-19 regulations, and now it's facing immigration laws that create fear in our community; and

WHEREAS, Organizacion Valles Centrales has dedicated over 15 years to Guelaguetza in Salinas, and their mission, is to move forward with the celebration, regardless of the challenges it has faced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the County and all residents, proudly recognizes the **16th Anniversary of Guelaguetza Salinas Festival** for its continued dedication to preserving and promoting the rich indigenous culture, history, and traditions of Oaxaca. We wish you continued success and extend our gratitude for your dedicated efforts in making this annual event accessible to the residents and visitors of Salinas and Monterey County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025, 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 _____, 2025.

Dated:

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

By _____
Deputy