

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

Resolution No.:

Resolution setting forth the Monterey County Board of Supervisors' formal acknowledgment that the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Japanese and Japanese Americans, its deepest regrets of these acts, and its reaffirmation of a commitment to preserving the rights of all peoples and celebrating their contributions

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 was signed 76 years ago on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and which ordered more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizens and non-citizen aliens, to be forcibly moved out of restricted zones; and

WHEREAS, Scores of Monterey County residents of Japanese descent, some who had lived here for two and three generations, were ordered to report to Civilian Control Stations with only what they could carry; and

WHEREAS, Starting in late March 1942, the Salinas Armory Building at 100 Howard Street became a Wartime Civilian Control Agency Assembly Center and began detaining Japanese and Japanese American individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, Starting on April 27, 1942, more than 3,500 Monterey Bay area residents of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens and, were temporarily confined in the Salinas Rodeo Grounds, called the "Salinas Assembly Center," from April to July 1942, and were detained without charges, legal counsel, trial, or establishment of guilt before being incarcerated in permanent camps via train, mostly at Poston, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, Dozens of Japanese American high school students relocated to the Salinas Assembly Center were deprived of their high school graduation ceremonies with their classmates and instead were only issued diplomas during their incarceration; and

WHEREAS, The Poston Relocation Center opened on May 8, 1942 in a harsh Arizona desert in La Paz County, and by September 1942, nearly 18,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were imprisoned there. Other incarceration centers included Amache, Colorado; Gila River, Arizona; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Jerome, Arizona; Manzanar, California; Minidoka, Idaho; Rohwer, Arizona; Topaz, Utah and Tule Lake, California; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese and Japanese American families were forced to give up their businesses, sell their land, and terminate their studies; and

WHEREAS, Despite the internment of their families, Japanese and Japanese American men volunteered to form the 100/442nd Regimental Combat Team, noted for their exceptional valor and patriotism and which became the most decorated military unit in World War II; and

volunteered for the top-secret Military Intelligence Service where the Japanese language was used as a weapon against the Japanese military in the Pacific War; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 1943, when federal officials considered releasing Japanese Americans from the incarceration camps, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, in response to local attitudes and emotions, passed a resolution protesting the release; and

WHEREAS, On February 19, 2002, The Monterey County Board of Supervisors rescinded the 1943 resolution, but a formal apology to the Japanese American community was not offered at that time; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized that the ten detention sites are to be preserved as historical landmarks to “forever stand as reminders that this nation failed in its most sacred duty to protect its citizens against prejudice, greed, and political expediency”; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County is home to a significant population of Japanese and Japanese Americans who are an integral part of Monterey County’s cultural and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, Monterey County will forever regret the way its residents of Japanese ancestry were treated with the loss of their rights, property, liberty, and civic standing; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT AND RESOLVED, On the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the residents of Monterey County, do hereby issue a formal apology to the overall Japanese and Japanese American community and to the Japanese American Citizens League chapters—Salinas Valley, Monterey Peninsula and Watsonville—for the unjust treatment of our neighbors of Japanese ancestry and the humiliation and financial losses that they suffered.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this ____ day of _____, 2018, upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

I, Nickolas E. Chiulos, 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:

Nickolas E. Chiulos, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By _____ Deputy