

Proclamation

West County Wastewater District Board of Directors

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY JANUARY 16, 2021

WHEREAS, *The President of the United States has annually declared January 16 to be National Religious Freedom Day since 1993. The goal of this observance is to protect and promote religious expression rights; and*

WHEREAS, *On January 16, 1786 the Virginia State Assembly adopted the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1777. As a result, the Church of England in Virginia was disestablished and people of different faiths were granted freedom of religion. Catholics, Protestants and Jews were all given equal rights to express their religious beliefs. Religious Freedom Day was first proclaimed in 1996 and has been proclaimed every year since then by a statement by the President of the USA; and*

WHEREAS, *Religious freedom in America, often referred to as our “first freedom,” was a driving force behind some of the earliest defining moments of our American identity. The desire for religious freedom impelled the Pilgrims to leave their homes in Europe and journey to a distant land, and it is the reason so many others seeking to live out their faith or change their faith have made America their home; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that the Directors of the West County Wastewater District do hereby recognize and proclaim January 16, 2021, as Religious Freedom Day and encourages all constituents and visitors alike to commemorate this day with events and activities that remind us of our shared heritage of religious liberty and that teach us how to secure this blessing both at home and around the world.*

Dated: January 13, 2021

/s/Cheryl Sudduth
Cheryl Sudduth, President

/s/Cesar Zepeda
Cesar Zepeda, Vice President

/s/David Alvarado
David Alvarado, Director

/s/Sherry Stanley
Sherry Stanley, Director

/s/Harry Wiener
Harry Wiener, Director