

# Proclamation

## West County Wastewater District Board of Directors

### RECOGNITION OF FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements of African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month originated from “Negro History Week,” which was inspired by historian Carter G. Woodson as well as other prominent African Americans in U.S. history and celebrated the second week in February, 1926, to coincide with the birthdays of renowned leaders Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1976 every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, this year’s theme of “African Americans and the Vote” highlights the year 2020 marking the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women’s suffrage movement and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote and has a rich and long history which began at the turn of the nineteenth century; and

**WHEREAS**, during the period of the migrations, especially those that occurred in the twentieth century, millions of African Americans reshaped the demographic landscape of America; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the migrations, a more diverse and stratified interracial and intra-racial urban population emerged, introducing urban churches and new religions, new musical forms such as ragtime, blues, and jazz, and the blossoming of visual and literary arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is also an occasion to commemorate the countless contributions of African Americans, many of who lived through and surmounted the scourge of segregation, racial prejudice, and discrimination to enrich every fiber of American life; and

**WHEREAS**, the fabric of our nation is richer and stronger due to the significant influence and contributions of inspirational African American leaders, including sports legends Hank Aaron, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Owens, and Jackie Robinson to human rights and political activists Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Malcolm X, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to literary figures Ira Aldridge, Maya Angelou, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Phyllis Wheatley, and Walter Francis White to statesmen Edward W. Brooke, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Colin Powell, and Hiram Revels, and to musical icons John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, and Aretha Franklin, among many others.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Directors of the West County Wastewater District hereby proclaim February as Black History Month and encourages all constituents and visitors alike to join us in celebrating this special month.

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