

Proclamation

West County Wastewater District Board of Directors

RECOGNITION OF FEBRUARY 15, 2021 AS PRESIDENTS' DAY

WHEREAS, Washington's Birthday is a U.S. federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States. Increasingly, the holiday has become an occasion to celebrate the birthdays of both President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln. Many Americans call the holiday Presidents' Day; and

WHEREAS, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, on his father's tobacco plantation in Colonial Virginia. He worked as a surveyor on the Virginia frontier and then became a major in the Virginia militia. After serving heroically during the French and Indian War, he returned to his family's Virginia home, Mount Vernon, and became a successful planter; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, and became America's 16th president in 1860. As president he guided his country through a great constitutional, military and moral crisis – the American Civil War (1861-1865) – after 11 of 15 Southern slaveholding states seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. His Emancipation Proclamation, issued on January 1, 1863, outlawed slavery in the Confederate states still in rebellion. The proclamation changed the war from a conflict over states' rights to a war whose aims included the destruction of slavery. Lincoln believed that a constitutional amendment was necessary to ensure the end of slavery, and he supported passage of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which was adopted in December 1865. Lincoln was shot to death by a Confederate sympathizer on April 9, 1865, five days after the Confederacy surrendered; and

WHEREAS, February 22 was celebrated as a holiday by 19th-century Americans. At least a dozen states officially celebrate the third Monday in February as "Washington and Lincoln's Birthday," and another dozen states call it "Presidents' Day." In 1971, Congress fixed Washington's Birthday and several other holidays on Mondays to create long holiday weekends; and

WHEREAS, As much as both Washington and Lincoln are revered, the federal holiday officially remains Washington's Birthday. The first president is also honored with many statues around the country and the 555-foot-high (169-meter) Washington Monument in the nation's capital, Washington. Likenesses of both Washington and Lincoln are carved in stone on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, along with Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, The holiday is also a tribute to the general who created the first military badge of merit for the common soldier. Revived on Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, the Purple Heart medal (which bears Washington's image) is awarded to soldiers who are injured in battle. As with Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Washington's Birthday offers another opportunity for the United States to honor its veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors of the West County Wastewater District hereby proclaim and recognize February 15, 2021 as Presidents' Day and encourages all constituents and visitors alike to join us in remembering and honoring all the Presidents in American history.

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