

RESOLUTION 21-70

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND
ACKNOWLEDGING THE ORIGINAL PEOPLES OF THESE LANDS**

WHEREAS, we, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority, are actively working to build relationships with regional Tribal partners, respectfully acknowledging their relationship to the land, and understanding our place within that relationship; and

WHEREAS, to become a meaningful ally and partner, we must recognize the historic and current traumas imposed upon Indigenous communities; the role of government entities as willing participants in violent displacement and injustices; the silencing of Indigenous voices in the role of land management; and the actions we can take toward reciprocity by providing Tribes with access to culturally significant and sacred lands, and identifying opportunities to support the stewardship of these lands in the future; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the widespread erasure of the Tribal presence and culture in the region, and believe we must, as partners of local Tribes and advocates for climate justice, do our part to acknowledge the historic and continued presence of Tribes in the region; and

WHEREAS, as a government institution specifically serving as land managers, it is our responsibility, along with that of others, to work to mend this relationship with Indigenous communities that were harmed and endure lasting impacts, to recognize the additional complexity and history of Indigenous voices being silenced and oppressed, and to help amplify their voice and role as community leaders in Bay Area conservation work; and

WHEREAS, we respect and honor the work of local Tribes to reconnect to the land, rediscover cultural and traditional ecological knowledge practices, and employ these practices as contemporary land management stewards; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Authority is committed to building meaningful opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to connect with sacred spaces and to supporting place-based cultural and stewardship practices; and

WHEREAS, as a public agency dedicated to conserving the natural environment, supporting agriculture, and connecting people to nature, with a commitment to justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, we must make space for populations that have been overlooked for centuries, who experience lasting impacts from the genocide that took place on these lands, who protected the very lands we manage for millennia, who are actively working to protect these lands, and who are actively fighting for justice.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Open Space Authority** recognizes Native American Heritage Month and acknowledges the original Peoples of these lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Authority and in its name, to execute and deliver such other documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of the above resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of October 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Kalvin Gill, Chairperson
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

William P. Parkin, Legal Counsel

Kellie Guerra, Clerk of the Board